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The Haliburton County

ECHO

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Tuesday, December 14, 2010



Through the darkness

Loretta Kerr leaps across the stage in *The Nutcracker* ballet, as staged by the Heritage Ballet Studio on Friday. See more photos on page 3. **Darren Lum** Echo staff

Welfare cases up 6.5%

Jenn Watt
Editor

The number of Ontario Works recipients is up again this year in Haliburton County with 6.5 per cent more cases in November, 2010, than November, 2009.

Supporting 438 individuals (through 263 OW cases), the need for social assistance payments has continued to rise even after the recession was declared over by economists.

"From social assistance in general - from Ontario Works to the previous general welfare - [the provincial government] identified there's a general two-year lag time for social assistance caseloads to show significant recovery following the end of a recession," said Rod Sutherland, manager of social services for Haliburton and the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Statistics Canada recently released the unemployment rate for Central Ontario, revealing that the county's figures have yet to approach pre-recession levels.

Central Ontario had an unemployment rate of nine per cent in November - down from 9.3 per cent in October, but a long way from the area's 2008 jobless rate of about 6.5 per cent.

The provincial unemployment average now sits at 8.2 per cent.

While the numbers do look grim, Sutherland points out that the rate caseloads are increasing is slowing down.

"You can tell in terms of the cases, the level and the increases that we saw ... in 2008 and 2009, it's definitely slowed down, we're not getting as much volume," he said.

Between 2008 and 2009, Sutherland watched his office's caseload expand by 31 per cent.

And although the post-recession bleed has slowed, the need is still as strong as ever, with government assistance payments barely covering the necessities of life.

A single person on OW can receive a maximum of \$591 a

see **FOOD MONEY** page 4



20/20 3D

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Moose FM raises \$20,000 in two days

➤ Here, there & everywhere

news and events worth noting

After their two-day radiothon Dec. 9 and 10, Moose FM and its listeners raised \$20,574 for the food banks of Haliburton County.

Host Rick Lowes said he was overjoyed by the positive community response in the fourth year of this fundraiser.

"What an amazing community we live in," he wrote in an email to the Echo.

The largest donation the station received was \$2,500.

Last year the radiothon raised \$11,000.

Cure your library fines by donating food

The Haliburton County Public Library will be accepting donations to the food bank in lieu of paying overdue fines for three days this month.

On Dec. 21, 22 and 23, every branch in the county will take an item of non-perishable food instead of fines.

(Note: fees for lost and damaged materials won't be waived.)

Donate your Superbucks to Point In Time

This winter donate your Independent Superbucks to Point In Time's after school recreation program. The program is in its seventh year, providing free recreation programs to youth in the communities of Minden, Cardiff and Wilberforce. More than 100 young people participate in these programs on a weekly basis. For some this is their only extracurricular activity. A healthy snack is provided, including opportunities for leadership and physical activity all in a positive, safe atmosphere.

Drop your Superbucks in marked boxes at Todd's Independent, Point In Time and other participating local businesses. Superbucks donated to this program will go towards

purchasing equipment and food for this essential program in our community. If you are interested in donating Superbucks or would like a donation box for your business please call Point In Time at 457-5345.

\$50,000 interest-free loan up for grabs

Budding entrepreneurs in Haliburton County are reminded that Bears' Lair (like Dragons' Den) is coming to the region giving away a \$50,000 interest-free loan along with \$20,000 in business-related goods and services.

Applications can be found at the Haliburton County Development Corporation or by going to www.bearslair.ca.

There will be two public showcases of local applicants – one in February at Fleming College and the other in March in Peterborough, where Dragons' Den's Robert Herjavec will be one of the judges.

Applications must be in by Dec. 31.

Cottage owner fined for illegally filling shorelands

A cottage owner was fined \$1,000 for illegally filling shore lands.

Jason Lake of Harcourt Park pleaded guilty to causing shorelands to be filled without a permit.

The court heard that Lake had constructed a gravel road on his property. The road eroded, causing fill to be deposited along the shore of Allen Lake, in Harcourt Park. He removed the material before being sentenced.

Justice of the Peace Diane Jackson heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice, Minden, on Dec. 2.

Cottage owners are reminded to have proper sediment control measures in place when completing construction projects near water bodies. Penalties for causing shorelands to be filled can include fines of up to \$10,000 and individuals can be required to restore the affected sites at their expense.

\$8,500 in fines for duck hunting offences

Five men have been fined a total of \$8,500 for duck hunting offences that took place north of Haliburton.

Paul Smith of Newmarket, Robert Johnston of Reabro, Andrew Tymon of Port Perry, Anthony Risi of Kitchener and Christopher Tymon of Stouffville all pleaded guilty to hunting waterfowl within 400 metres of a baited area. They were fined \$1,000 each and their licences to hunt migratory game birds were suspended for one year. In addition, Smith pleaded guilty to depositing bait within 14 days of the open season for water-

fowl and was fined \$1,500. Johnston and Risi pleaded guilty to making a false statement to a conservation officer and were fined \$1,000 each.

Court heard that on Monday, Sept. 20, 2010, a conservation officer visited a pond north of Haliburton and checked the five hunters while they were hunting. Inspection of the pond found that it recently had been baited with corn.

It is illegal to hunt waterfowl within 400 metres of where bait has been deposited. In addition, hunters may not deposit bait within 14 days of the open season for waterfowl in an area where they intend to hunt.

To report a natural resources violation, call 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667) toll-free any time or contact your local ministry office during regular business hours. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

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See Inside

- Why does the basement smell like that?
- You have obligations when you serve alcohol
- Are you getting the sleep you need?
- Card and bowling scores

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December 16, 2010

Zero out library fines with food donation

Bessie's Books and other things
Bessie Sullivan
County Librarian

Contrary to popular belief, library fines are a way to encourage people to bring library materials back rather than an attempt to rid you of your hard-earned cash.

To wrap up 2010 we are giving you a chance to eliminate your fines and at the same time help those in need of food.

On Dec. 21, 22, and 23, visit any branch of the Haliburton County Public Library with a non-perishable food donation and we will waive your fines.

This applies to overdue fines only. Fees for lost or damaged materials are not included.

For those of you who don't have fines you may still participate by dropping off your donation when you visit your local branch. The food will go to the nearest food bank to you and truly help those in need locally.

Help fill a cruiser

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment will be having their annual Fill a Cruiser with Food campaign.

Food banks in Wilberforce, Minden and Haliburton will benefit again this year with donations of any size or amount. OPP cruisers will be in front of local grocery stores collecting food, then dropping it off at the nearest food bank.

All donated food will then be taken to the Wood of Life Food Bank in Wilberforce.

Free in your mailbox on Thursday...



Winning house goes to Cordell

Cordell Carpet's entry in Haliburton Rotary's gingerbread house contest, seen above, earned the most votes from the public and was won by Rose Pearson. Placing second was Canoe FM followed by Foodland.

The competition was between local businesses to see who could build the best gingerbread house. All the houses were raffled off after their display period at Todd's Independent. Other gingerbread houses in order of most votes: Blue Sky Yoga (fourth); Haliburton Echo (fifth); County Voice (sixth); Todd's Independent (seventh); Bonnie View (eighth); V&S (ninth); Moose FM (tenth); Pinestone (eleventh) and McKecks did not enter a house.

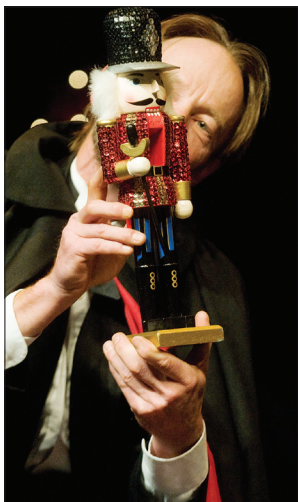
There were 939 votes in total. /Submitted by Rose Pearson



Christmas splendour



The Christmas classic, The Nutcracker, showcased energetic performances enhanced by brilliant costumes, as it was staged by the Heritage Ballet Studio for the Grade 1 students of Stuart Baker Elementary School and Cardiff Elementary School at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion on Friday, Dec. 10. The show was also held on the weekend for hundreds of people. More photos at www.haliburtonecho.ca



Clockwise from left, Jessica Bishop holds a pose; a blur of action by moving dancers; Loretta Kerr is held up by Gustavo Rojas, as the Nutcracker; dancers sit and stand at the finale to the first half of the show; the Rat King sends out his rats to fight; Tim Nicholson, as uncle Drosselmeyer holds and looks at the Nutcracker.



Angels' voices

Mr. Lee leads the Stuart Baker Elementary School choir performance for the Highland Wood residents in the cafeteria in Haliburton on Tuesday, Dec. 7. The 32-member choir, which is comprised of Grade 2 and 3 students and is accompanied by Mrs. Watson, sang several Christmas songs such as Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer; Turkey Dinner, Turkey Dinner; Oh, There Was A Little Baby. **Darren Lum** Echo staff

Food money often spent on shelter by Ontario Works recipients

from page 1

month, of which just more than \$360 is supposed to cover shelter including utilities.

A couple gets a maximum of \$1,020.

Those numbers reflect a one-per-cent increase in assistance rates the government instituted this month.

"Even for a couple, the maximum shelter component is \$572 – and that includes all utilities as well. For two people to find a place for that is probably next to impossible short of some very small places or rooming house situations," Sutherland said.

Many of those who come to the social assistance offices end up using food banks and community supports to supplement payments that could never meet the real need they face.

"Most people, like a single person, [on OW] is drawing considerably from what they get for food and clothing each month just to pay for shelter.

"Which means that they have very little to live on in terms of other money and that's where you get the use of the food banks and drawing on food banks and service clubs, other social service agencies for help.

"It really is very difficult to survive on that kind of money," he said.

Haliburton's 4Cs and Minden's food bank have both confirmed that need is up already, heading into the notoriously slow winter season.

“

Even for a couple, the maximum shelter component is \$572 – and that includes utilities as well.

For two people to find a place for that is probably next to impossible short of some very small places or rooming house situations.

— Rod Sutherland
Manager, Social Services

"This is the worst year I have ever seen," chairwoman of the Minden food bank, Barbara Walford-Davis told the *Minden Times* in an article published earlier this month. She has been heading the organization for 17 years.

Bypass talks quiet after York Street widened

➤ Trucks can still get through, but construction president urges forward thinking

Angelica Blenich
Staff reporter

With the streetscape of York Street complete the issue of a bypass of Haliburton's downtown core has been solved, for now.

Plans to narrow York Street during the streetscape project raised concerns with local truckers who worried they couldn't make the turn from Maple Street.

In a letter written to *The Echo* in September, president of Hawk River Construction, Larry Hewitt, urged the community and municipality to support an alternative bypass.

"Now is the time for both to step up and actively pursue this alternative bypass," wrote Hewitt. "It will be a pressure relief to a congested village core."

"The new streetscape is 'pretty' on paper and is designed for pedestrian traffic The new pretty design has narrowed the entrance onto York from Maple so terribly it will force large trucks up Highland Street, clogging the main street once again."

According to Hewitt, despite preliminary drawings suggesting otherwise, the narrow entrance onto York Street from Maple was never followed through.

"When Fowler started the job they cut the asphalt where it was going to be and it just wasn't going to work," said Hewitt. "They left it the way it was."

Blake Sisson, a foreman with the Dysart roads department, confirmed there was earlier discussion of changing the entrance onto York Street.

"They changed it back and left it a little wider," said Sisson, who has been with the road department for 22 years. "The way it is now gives them [truck drivers] more room."

While York Street currently offers truck drivers an alternative to Highland Street, Hewitt thinks more could be done in the future.

"Like it or not the town is going to get more strangled as it grows," said Hewitt. "If they don't get it so that people can move around people won't come to town. It won't be a destination."

The reason for the letter, said Hewitt, was to get people thinking about the future and ways to improve the community for everyone.

"There are more people living here, so if you don't plan ahead all off a sudden it becomes a knee-jerk reaction and we end up with trouble."

"My point was get together and do something that 10 years from now is going to be the right thing," said Hewitt. "They say that there's no money available but if there's a will there's a way."



The new Dysart et al council, left, Bill Davis, deputy-reeve, Susan Norcross, Ward 4 councillor, Dennis Casey, Ward 2 councillor, Murray Fearrey, reeve, Steve Pogue, Ward 3 councillor, Andrea Roberts, Ward 1 councillor, and Walt McKechnie, Ward 5 councillor, were sworn in at the municipal office on Monday, Dec. 6.

Darren Lum Echo staff

New council supports Food for Kids fundraiser

Darren Lum
Staff reporter

The following are briefs from the Dysart council meeting on Monday, Dec. 6.

The newly inaugurated Dysart council were getting their first crack at politics at the planning meeting that included a short agenda and the appointment of members to committees.

Little time was needed to approve Blue Sky Yoga Studio's application for the free use of the Dysart Arena auditorium for the Food for Kids Program fundraiser scheduled this year from 5 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 22.

The event promises exercise, education, entertainment and food. Instructors Suzanne Haedicke for Zumba, Kathy Carey for kickboxing and Lynda Shadbolt for yoga/relaxation will lead the groups.

The arena will enable the studio to host more than 200 participants, compared to the studio capacity of 14.

Event organizers suggest a \$25 donation. Participants are encouraged to bring appropriate attire, including a water bottle, yoga mat or a towel.

All of the event's profits will contribute to providing nutritional snacks and breakfasts to schools throughout Haliburton County.

Committee appointments

The public meeting committee, which meets on issues related to the Planning Act and the Municipal Act, had re-elected Councillor Steve Pogue and newly elected councillors Susan Norcross and Walt McKechnie appointed.

The committee of adjustment, which is a mix of public and elected officials, totaling three public and four council members, has already appointed councillors Dennis Casey, Susan Norcross, Walt McKechnie and Andrea Roberts. Officially the members from the public will be chosen by January.

At least one elected council member must attend the meeting, rotating with the other elected council members when he/

she cannot attend.

The three members of the public and the one elected member meet once a month to hear "applications and where appropriate, grants variances from any bylaw that implements the Dysart Official Plan."

Members from the public are appointed for four years while members from council are appointed annually. Advertisements are made in the media for the public members.

The land division committee, which is appointed by county council, will accept forwarded nominations from each municipality.

Dysart has forwarded Deputy-reeve Bill Davis. He has served on the committee the past six years. Councillor Andrea Roberts has been forwarded as the alternate.

Each municipality has a representative on the committee, resulting in a four-member committee.

New council all smiles, at inauguration

The new members of Dysart et al council are smiling after the municipality's inauguration meeting Monday, Dec. 6.

Although the mood was light, speckled with laughter and levity, Dysart's Reeve Murray Fearrey said Dysart is in for a challenging year, reminding everyone about the global economic downturn.

"When I hear people talk about some major projects and capital ... yeah, there are needs in this county, but there's also a lot of people here who don't have decent housing. There's also a lot of people who are way below the [provincial and national] average income ... we have to think of those people. We represent everybody. Not just an elite group. It's a challenge. We live in challenging times," he said.

He offered some pointed advice to the new council.

"Every decision you make, I don't care how small, it affects somebody," he said. "What you need to do in your process when you make that decision is [ask yourself,] 'Can I do that for everybody else in the municipality?'"

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points of view

Needy deserve better

THERE ARE 438 PEOPLE in this county who will be feeling the increased cost of hydro, gas and other newly taxed items more acutely than the rest of us this winter.

Those who are supported by Ontario Works social assistance payments will be far more devastated by these hikes than many members of the middle class who are hollering the loudest.

Because while hydro is set to increase 46 per cent over five years, and gas now carries another eight per cent from July's harmonized sales tax, welfare payments have increased just one per cent.

One per cent on an already paltry sum.

According to the social assistance office for Haliburton County (which is run out of Lindsay), the maximum amount a single person could expect to receive from the government per month is \$591.

A couple can get – at most – \$1,020.

Those figures, which are adjusted for the recent one-per-cent increase, are supposed to cover shelter, clothing, food, heat and hydro.

The cost of most of those items is going up and there are few other sources of income or assistance welfare recipients (or low-income earn-

ers) can rely on.

They use the food banks and the community kitchens, buy used clothes and depend on toy drives to keep the holidays bright for their kids.

There are more people accessing OW in our county than there have been in recent memory and the jobless rate has yet to approach pre-recession numbers.

With the cost of living climbing so quickly, it is crucial that the welfare rate keep up.

Minimum wage increases certainly have helped the working poor, child benefits have likewise floated some families through tough months, but those who are truly scraping by on less than what goes for one month's rent in the Highlands need more than what a one-per-cent increase can bring.

We do a great job in this county helping each other out.

Many who are in dire need this Christmas will get meals from volunteers, rides from neighbours and gifts from strangers – but it won't fix the problem.

Our welfare rate in this province has been embarrassingly low for too long.

The people in need in this county deserve better.



Jenn Watt
Editor



Creepy crawlies body parts

photo by Angelica Blenich

A lighter shade of pale

WHEN YOU MAKE your living as a talent-challenged freelance writer you don't expect many great things to fall in your lap. But there are times – special times – when suddenly it all comes together and you reap the reward of all the hard work.

That was the case this morning when I walked over, once again, to the tangible symbol of my upward mobility and success – my new trash can.

Even now, I can't believe it.

Forgive me if it sounds like bragging, but my new, gleaming white 12-litre stepcan – you heard me right, stepcan – has now eclipsed my Teflon frying pan and new spatula as the stylish centre-piece of my kitchen.

Now anyone visiting my place is going to understand just how far I've come as a writer.

This thing has got all the features that you would expect in a modern, high-end garbage can. You can't help but admire its convenient carrying handle, heavy-duty foot pedal for hands-free operation, and lid that opens as dramatically as a Pharaoh's tomb. And with its enamel bone-white finish, it looks like R2D2's sleeker cousin – a cousin whose colour neatly complements the fridge.

Quite frankly, this is the reason I got into writing in the first place.

I'm not saying that a glamorous piece of furniture like this changes a person's life. After all, I am still the same person I ever was. But I'd be remiss if I didn't tell you that now I see that, if you work hard and stick it out, anything is possible. Young

writers, take note.

My dog, on the other hand, is pissed. The old garbage can it replaced was her secondary source of food and, after a quiet out of the way litter box, perhaps her favourite dining establishment.

She's still reeling at the loss of the old lidless bucket and, today, as she watched me put the pedal to the metal to open the lid on the new stepcan, she knew that getting to the banana peel I just dropped in was going to take some technical know-how.

Even now, I suspect, she's trying to figure out which paw would be best to operate the

pedal.

I suppose, once word gets out about my new trashcan, life won't be the same. I'm sure I'll be overwhelmed by proposals of marriage and offers to lecture at universities, social events and pool halls. No doubt, I'll be asked to be the keynote speaker at the next few waste haulers conferences too.

Even so, I'm going to try to remain grounded and not get swept up in the excitement and thrill of it all. I'm going to wake up every morning thankful that I now know how the other half lives.

Still, from here on in, I will carry myself with quiet dignity and false modesty. Looking at me, you won't even know that, back at my estate, I now possess, the Mercedes-Benz of waste disposal units.

I think this is fitting. After all, these are tough economic times and not everyone is doing so well. Besides, no one likes trash talk.



Steve Galea
Tales from Vinegar Hill

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points of view

Hurrying

“Hurry up! We’re going to be late – I just know it!” Megan felt like a cowboy trying to round up her herd as she scurried about the house urging the rest of the family onward. It was the night of the church’s Christmas concert and they were slow getting out of the house. The plan was to go on foot. But that meant a 20 minute walk with little legs struggling to keep up if they hurried too much.

Megan hated being late for anything. Her stomach tightened as she watched Sarah searching for her mitts and Steve wandering about the living room asking the air, “Has anyone seen my glasses?” Megan felt like screaming.



Sharon Lynch
Down our Road

Instead she said, “Sarah, here are your mitts and Steve, I think you left them by the microwave.” Then she added, “I’ll wait outside.”

While she stood impatiently on the deck, she couldn’t help but fume. Steve knew how she hated being late but had still wanted that second cup of coffee after supper, despite her raised eyebrow and meaningful stare at the kitchen clock. Now they were five minutes past the time they said they’d start walking and Megan was the only one ready to go.

Then Steve and Sarah joined her and they set out. “I hope we don’t have to stand at the back of the church because we’re too late to

get a seat,” she muttered irritably. Steve made no reply and Sarah was busy looking at the deer tracks running down their driveway.

It was a mild night. Earlier in the week the snow had arrived, turning their village into a Christmas card of sugary landscape sprinkled with coloured lights. Sarah’s friend Ben had made a snowman and he gave them a pretend wave with his stick arm as they walked by. “Daddy can we make a snowman tomorrow?” Sarah asked Steve, turning for one last look at Ben’s creation.

“Sure princess,” came the reply. Megan sighed. No snowman making for her. She still had a long gift list to tackle and cards waiting to be addressed, let alone sent. Although she wanted to walk faster, she set her pace to Sarah and Steve’s, trying not to think about entering the church late to the curious looks of those already seated. It seemed no matter how hard she tried, things never worked out as smoothly as she wanted.

As they walked over snowy sidewalks, Megan barely noticed the glowing front yards and entranceways where her neighbours had created a magical world of rainbow colours. Fighting the urge to look at her watch, she pushed on, sensing Sarah and Steve behind her. The streets were busy with cars passing by or turning in and out of driveways.

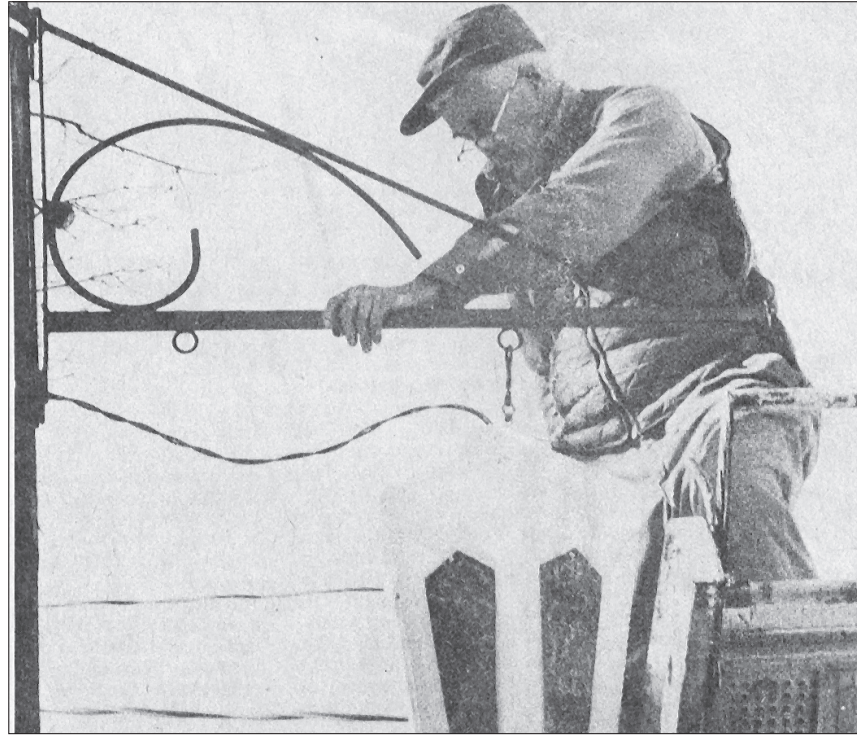
The church parking lot came into view and while it was hardly empty, Sarah was surprised there were not more vehicles. People obviously involved with the performance were clustered busily just inside the main doors and the sound of tuning instruments echoed through the building as Megan, Steve and Sarah made their way into the main church. Megan was shocked to see only a small handful of bodies in the pews. Seated in the front row was a familiar face and he waved them over to join him.

It was from him they learned the concert was not to start for another half hour. Megan sat back in the pew while Steve cast her a sideways glance. All the unnecessary hurrying, she thought, wishing they had checked the time more scrupulously.

But no matter. They now had time to reflect on their walk here as well as watch the audience arrive. Before them was a large screen suspended from the ceiling on which was projected an ever-changing series of snowy landscape scenes. While she watched the French Alps and lacey treed riverbanks appear and fade, Megan could feel herself slowing down.

The musicians were looking more settled in their chairs now and the sounds of tuning was being replaced by a symphony of voices as a steady flow of people began pouring toward the pews. Sitting in the front row gave Megan, Steve and Sarah a perfect vantage point and there were many small waves of recognition, nods and smiles.

After what did not seem long at all, the conductor stepped forward and the concert was about to begin. The crowd went quiet. As the pointillist gleamed and the lights glowed, Megan felt the warmth of anticipation. And she knew the walk home would be wonderful.



pic of the past

Back in 1981, Haliburton’s main street was decorated for Christmas by Charlie Herron. This front page photo back then shows Herron connecting the new lights.

letters to the editor

Here’s to you, hydro workers

To the Editor,

I arrived from Toronto for a relaxing few days at my cottage on Maple Lake last Thursday afternoon. But ... the power was out. Hmmm ... no heat! I guess I can’t have a decadently long, hot shower either.

Hmmm ... it’s going to be pretty hard to cook food too. The bed is pretty damned cold and no electric blanket. Soon my rum and coke will be frozen.

This life of ease I was anticipating for the next few days has just frozen away. The scenery would be beautiful except I can’t see anything for all the flying snow. Now I even have to shovel by hand because the electric snow thrower won’t run.

I am truly unhappy as I huddle before the fire. I figure about the only thing worse than being me at the moment is being a hydro linesman. They gotta ... work ... outside ... in the dark ... and cold ... and wind.

Ahh! At last, the lights are on. The furnace is churning out heat after 13 hours. And the hydro guys are still working, outside, in the dark and cold and wind.

You know what? My life ain’t so bad after all. I think I’ll pour another rum and coke and toast all those great guys who work in the worst conditions possible to keep my lazy lifestyle comfortable and cozy.

Here’s to you hydro ... and thanks!

Philip Brown
Maple Lake

One of the finest

To the Editor,

Doris McCarthy died Nov. 25 at age 100. She was a great ambassador for all things Canadian, including the beautiful Haliburton Highlands where she was a pioneer painter in the 1920s, ‘30s and ‘40s.

While others may have considered a scene to be mundane, no matter what landscape she saw, she always saw something interesting there to paint. And paint she did, producing over 5,000 landscapes, mostly Canadian in every province and across the world. Her travels took her on a dozen or more trips to the Arctic and at least two trips to the Antarctic. She was walking testimony to the power of positive thinking and brought me up short en route to Haliburton to unveil one of her canvasses at the HHHSF in November, 2000. On the way up and merely to make conversation, I had remarked how the landscape looked a little bleak, not as inspiring as a sunshiny day might be. Well, that remark launched Doris into a rather brisk lecture on how the leafless trees were actually a form of beauty in themselves, each tree’s architectural structure now visible for the artist to see and therefore better understand the shape of each tree. That was Doris. No negative thinking allowed.

At the unveiling, she spoke of the “incomparable hospitality” of the Curry family during her many visits there and what a special place Haliburton held for her as the years had stretched on. An unforgettable character, Doris was the last living link to our treasured Group of Seven painters, still the only truly and distinctive Canadian style. She, of course, knew them all and, among many other pursuits, mostly focused on their art, worked with Ethel Curry under Arthur Lismer giving Saturday morning art lessons to gifted Toronto children. Many went on to become great Canadian artists.

Unlike our American friends to the south, we do not honour sufficiently our Canadian heroes. And she, along with Ethel Curry, were certainly two of our finest.

Robert Popple

Send your letter to the editor to
editor@haliburtonecho.ca

Teacher recounts frightening car accident

Kimberley Veneziale
Special to the *Echo*

I always use my notes to make light of experiences in my life. I cannot yet make light of the accident we were in Dec. 5, but felt like I need to tell everyone what happened, as so many of my great and caring family members and friends have been reaching out to offer support and ask about it.

My roommate Lisa and I had the great experience of making our own winter mocassins this weekend. As we were driving to the Kinark Outdoor Centre on the backroads, Lisa noticed that my car had side airbags and asked how they worked. I had no idea and told her I hoped never to find out. This, in hindsight, is a freakish premonition.

We left Kinark shortly after 3 p.m. that day with our brand new, hand-stitched winter mocassins strapped to our feet and headed back towards Haliburton on County Road 21. Roads were not very bad – there was just a light dusting of snow sprinkling down.

We were about halfway home when I hit an icy patch and lost control of the car. We slid into the oncoming lane – though thankfully there was no other traffic. I tried to steer out of the skid and my car turned back into our lane but started to spin to face the wrong way. I realized quickly that I was not going to recover control and saw us headed for the ditch and rock-cut behind it. I put my arm out to hold Lisa and braced for impact.

The next thing I know we are spinning in the air, flipping over and over. My car came to rest on its roof, and my first thought when I realized that we were stopped was that the car was going to crush us. My mouth was full of dirt and I was hanging upside down, held into my seat by my seatbelt. The side airbag was already deflated beside my face.

Lisa and I evidently watch too many movies. She spoke first: "I smell gas." The terrifying

thought of the car catching fire spurred us into action. We both undid our seatbelts, causing us to fall onto our heads in the roof of my car. My door wouldn't open but my window had shattered, so I crawled out there. Lisa's door was jammed, and in her confusion she didn't know how to get out. I remember reaching in to help guide her out my window – and while I don't remember this part, Lisa swears I reached in and one handedly pulled her out. Whether or not I actually did, I like the fact that it makes me sound strong, so let's all just agree with her.

We ran to the other side of the road, still sure my car would Hollywood explode at any moment. I looked back at my car and felt like I was melting – my knees wouldn't hold and I started to cry. Lisa kept asking if I was hurt but I could not respond. I fumbled around for my phone and called 911 – but was too shocked to say anything. They kept asking me if I was hurt, if I need fire, ambulance, or police, where I was – and I couldn't think straight. I just kept saying "I don't know."

A car pulled over and a man got out. I told him there was no one else in the car and handed him the phone. Another car pulled over and a couple got out and brought me to sit down. I was freaking out and Lisa was much quieter, so people kept assuming it was only me in the accident. I kept trying to tell them to take care of her too, but was crying too hard to be very coherent.

Everything that had been in my car was scattered across the road – our groceries, hats, mitts, wallets and phones. Cars driving by were flattening the tomatoes as they drove past, staining the snow covered road red. Lisa's boots had flown out of the backseat, and the liners flew even further out of them. We kept asking to go get our stuff off the road, but the people helping us told us to wait for the ambulance to come. We must have asked for our boots a dozen times.

When the ambulance came, they checked



Kimberly Veneziale, a Grade 8 teacher at JD Hodgson Elementary School, survived a horrific car accident in her Honda Fit on County Road 21.

us out and I didn't want to go to the hospital. I knew I was not seriously hurt. But I told them my neck was sore – and out came the spinal board. The scariest part was lying strapped to the board, my neck immobilized and my head literally taped down. I think this must be what it feels like to be abducted by aliens – trapped with bright lights above you. There is movement around but you are not sure what is happening, and no one tells you. I understood that the paramedics were just taking necessary precautions, but it was terrifying to realize how seriously I could have been injured.

Lisa and I were both checked out and given a clean bill of health. We were advised to stay home from school where we teach (poor us!) and for as long as we needed. We both emerged from my wrecked car without a scratch. I am still in shock that we are unharmed. My thoughts are continually going back to my friends Claire and Carly, and the countless others who have lost their lives in car accidents. I am so grateful.

The nurse told me I must have had a guardian angel on my shoulder. The police said my car was designed to save me in such an accident. The paramedic told me I was lucky. I know now that we first hit a sign (sorry, Bonnie View Inn), which slowed and spun us enough so that when we did hit the rocks, we did so at an angle that allowed us to bounce off and come back up to the shoulder. Whatever the reason, I am here, and I am grateful for everything in my life.

I sat by my window today and watched snow sparkle down through the trees, with the lake in the background. Lisa likened it to being in a giant snowglobe. I have always been good at appreciating the small things, but this experience is certainly a reminder to continue to do so. I don't why I am OK, but I will not waste any time dwelling on it.

Carpe Lifem.

Kimberly Veneziale is a Grade 8 teacher at JD Hodgson Elementary School.

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Group seeks bird enthusiasts for annual count

Polish your binoculars, fill up your feeders and circle Saturday, Dec. 18 on your calendar. Then join in the fun of recording what birds are wintering in your neighbourhood. The Christmas Bird Count circle is a standard 15 miles across, extending from Kinmount and Moore Falls in the south to Mountain Lake in the north, from Bob Lake in the west to Lochlin and Irondale in the east. Set in 1967, when the first count was held in Haliburton County, the circle was carefully located to include as much open water as possible, large lakes such as Gull and the southwest end of Kashagawigamog, and fast-flowing portions of the Burnt and Gull River systems. This has proved to be a wise decision. Over the 43 years a total of 30 species associated with open water have been spotted, including 16 kinds of ducks, two species of loons, three grebe species, three kinds of gulls, as well as double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, American coot, bald eagle, Canada goose and belted kingfisher.

There are several dozen similar counts held in Ontario between Dec. 14 and Jan. 5 each year, with many hundreds more across North America. Some are even held in Central and South America and beyond. Canadian counts are coordinated by Bird Studies Canada. The results of all counts are compiled by the National Audubon Society. Information from all counts back to the year 1900 is available on their website.

Closest counts to Haliburton County include Bancroft to the east, Fenelon Falls/Coboconk to the south, Bracebridge to the west and Algonquin Park to the north.

After last year's lack of wild food, it was hoped that this year would produce a better crop of cones and seeds to attract winter finches. Unfortunately that didn't happen.

A good crop of acorns has prompted more blue jays to hang around, and passing flocks of Bohemian waxwings have taken advantage of fruit on flowering crab and winterberry. Evening grosbeaks showed up early this year, along with a few pine grosbeaks, but numbers are low. Purple finches have all but disappeared, and pine siskin numbers are dropping rapidly as thousands leave the province in search of better cone crops. Goldfinches still remain at feeders providing niger seed. They may be joined later by redpolls moving south from the high arctic.

The most exciting possibilities this year would seem to be lingering or exotic species visiting feeders well stocked with sunflower seeds, white millet and suet. A relatively mild fall encourages birds that would normally have gone south by now to linger until their migratory urges have passed. Look for white-throated and song sparrows under your feeders at dawn and dusk Gray jays and boreal chickadees have wandered well beyond their normal haunts. Look and listen for chickadees with brown caps and buzzy voices.

Most exciting of all are species moving way beyond their normal range. A Carolina wren visiting a feeder in Haliburton is a pioneer in the northward range extension by this largest of our wren species. The unusual number of red-bellied woodpeckers spotted across southern Ontario this fall is part of a similar trend.

On the other hand, the painted bunting that showed up recently at a feeder on Gull Lake was totally unexpected. This is undoubtedly the first record for Haliburton County. Their normal range is extreme southern United States and southward. How this individual, and at least one other currently visiting feeders in Ontario, got here, is a matter of excited speculation.

So stock your feeders, hang up those

suet balls and be ready for exciting visitors to your yard. Even if nothing exotic shows up, the information you can provide about more common species such as nuthatches and woodpeckers is invaluable in tracking population fluctuations that indicate the overall health of our feathered neighbours.

Contact Ed or Thom as soon as possible to join a group on Dec. 18.

To report birds at your feeder, phone 286-1189 between 5 and 7 p.m. on Dec. 18, or phone Ed of Thom on Dec. 19. Or you can email your results to Dennis or mail them to Dennis Barry, 338 Crystal

Beach Blvd. Whitby, ON L1N 9Z7. Species not seen by anyone within the count circle on Dec. 18th, but found on Dec. 15, 16, 17, 19, 20 or 21, will be recorded as count week birds.

We hope you're able to join us on Dec. 18 to help make the 44th CBC in Haliburton County the best ever.

Thom Lambert 457-9110 singing.dog@sympatico.ca

Ed Poropat 457-3018 ed.barb@sympatico.ca
Dennis Barry 905-725-2116 dbarry@interlinks.net

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Time Travellers give \$1,000 to HHHSF

The Haliburton Highlands Time Travellers present a \$1,000 cheque to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation. The funds were raised through 50/50 draws held this past summer during cruise nights in Haliburton and Minden. The donation brings the organization's commitment to the HHHSF to \$9,017, donated over the past few years. The money will assist the foundation to fund priority medical equipment. From left, executive director of the foundation Dale Walker, HHHS CEO Paul Rosebush, HHTT vice-president Steve Carnochan, HHTT assistant secretary Julie Carochan, HHTT secretary Eleanor Patton and HHTT president Bob Patton. Angelica Blenich Echo staff





Santa Claus brings his signature spirit to the parade.



Despite the snow, the kids were all smiles.



Is it Christmas or Easter?

Santa visits Wilberforce

Photos by Chad Ingram Echo staff



Many of the area's riders saddled up their horses for the occasion.



Local children played a key role in this year's parade – several waved from snow-covered floats. One float celebrated 100 years for the Wilberforce school.



Girl Guides and Brownies braved the snowy weather to celebrate Christmas.



Chad Ingram Echo staff

Above, members of Outloud Womyn's Voices performed at a forum dedicated to abolishing violence against women at Haliburton's Fleming College campus on Dec. 6.

At left, Beth Johns, left, Gerane Bonyun-Tyers, Dianne Plouffe, Joanne Barnes and Lindsay MacLean received Guardian Angel awards from the YWCA for their contribution to community and the betterment of the lives of women in Haliburton County.

Bettering the lives of women

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

A number of area women were honoured for their contribution to community and the betterment of the lives of other women at a ceremony at Haliburton's Fleming College last week.

The second annual Guardian Angel Awards were presented at a forum hosted by the Peterborough, Victoria and Haliburton YWCA on Dec. 6, Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

Recipients were Joanne Barnes and Lindsay MacLean, founders of Minden's Fuel for Warmth program; Dianne Plouffe, a health-care worker and volunteer; Gerane Bonyun-Tyers, an 80-year-old volunteer with numerous organization, including The Bridge youth centre; and Beth Johns, founder of Outloud Womyn's Voices, a choir and activist group that appears at many functions throughout the county.

The lunchtime event also included a panel discussion on violence against women that featured educator Cynthia Mitchell, OPP Constable Valerie Jarvis, security guard and police officer hopeful Stephanie Foster, Beth Archibald, director of care for Hyland Crest and Highland Wood and

Karen Anderson, elder abuse coordinator for Community Care.

The discussion was moderated by Canoe FM's Roxanne Casey, who said she knew little about domestic abuse, but had been disturbed to learn that three to six women are murdered by a partner or former partner each month in Ontario.

"We do know we need to do everything in our power to stop this from happening again," she said.

Casey asked each of the panellists to describe how they defined abuse and answers reached far beyond just physical abuse to the financial and emotional kinds and into the kind of actions that can affect an entire community.

"The way it spreads is like cancer," said Jarvis, who has overcome both abuse in her childhood and in her first marriage. "It's like terrorism really, for the entire family."

Jarvis said that while laws in Ontario have been changed with the intention of helping more women in abusive situations, she believes they have had just the opposite effect.

"Unfortunately, the change has been for the worse, not for the better," she said.

As Jarvis explained, police are now required by law to press charges when they attend a domestic abuse call.

Previously, it had been up to the discretion of the person who suffered the abuse whether or not charges would be

pressed.

"The victim is re-victimized again and again and again," Jarvis said, explaining the victim has to retell her story to investigators and then the court, all while her abuser gets to sit silently.

The required pressing of charges can also mean the abuser is more likely to retaliate with more abuse, Foster added.

Haliburton Highlands OPP seem to be responding to an increasing number of domestic violence calls.

Jarvis said in 2008, the detachment responded to 102 such calls; 158 in 2009; and had responded to 146 so far this year.

Panellists said that increased transportation services in the county could help decrease instances of abuse, since some homes are so isolated.

Anderson said the best way to battle the problem of domestic abuse in the county was for people to start speaking up about it.

"Don't be an ostrich," she said. "Don't bury your head in the sand."

On Dec. 6, 1989, Marc Lepine shot and killed 14 female engineering students at Montreal's L'Ecole Polytechnique and the anniversary of what is known as the Montreal Massacre has become a day of action against abuse against women.

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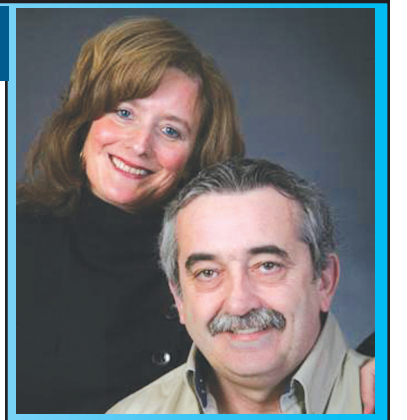
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Local organizations offer alternative Christmas gifts

Angelica Blenich
Staff reporter

Christmas shopping brings along the stress of finding that perfect gift for everyone on your list.

This year a number of local organizations are taking the stress out of shopping by offering alternative gifts through a new program titled Gifting Outside the Box.

Coordinated by SIRCH Community Services, the program joins six charities together giving people the chance to donate to any one of the participating organizations in someone else's name.

In return, the donor will receive a gift certificate to put under the tree or in a stocking on Christmas morning.

The idea for the initiative was born out of a healthy communities meeting held in the spring. During the meeting, a number of challenges that exist in small communities were recognized including volunteer engagement and the need for fundraising.

A second meeting held at the beginning of December recognized the struggle many local charities have with generating funding at Christmas time.

Nancy Brownsberger, social marketing coordinator for SIRCH, began contacting charities that were interested in coordinating their outreach efforts.

"Generosity is paramount in making this program work," said Brownsberger. "Traditionally people get presents at Christmas, but this year they can get a gift certificate with a donation in their name."

The organizations involved include SIRCH, the YWCA, Youth Unlimited-The Bridge youth centre, Community Care, the Minden Food Bank and Fuel for Warmth.

"Every single organization involved is interested in doing this again," said Brownsberger. "It shows the collaborative effort of the community, the spirit of working together."

"The program is focused on the human need," said Gena Robertson, executive director of SIRCH.

"And the local need," said Wendy Ladurantaye, assistant executive director of SIRCH.

"It doesn't have to be a huge donation, if 50 people give \$5 all of a sudden that becomes significant," said Ladurantaye. "Little dollars can mean big dollars."

Ladurantaye believes the program is just another example of the communities continuing effort of working together.

For more information about the initiative contact Brownsberger at 457-1742, or email info@sirch.on.ca.



Angelica Blenich Echo staff

SIRCH Community Services assistant executive director Wendy Ladurantaye, left and social marketing coordinator Nancy Brownsberger encourage the community to "Gift outside the box" this year by making a contribution to one of the many charitable organizations in the county.

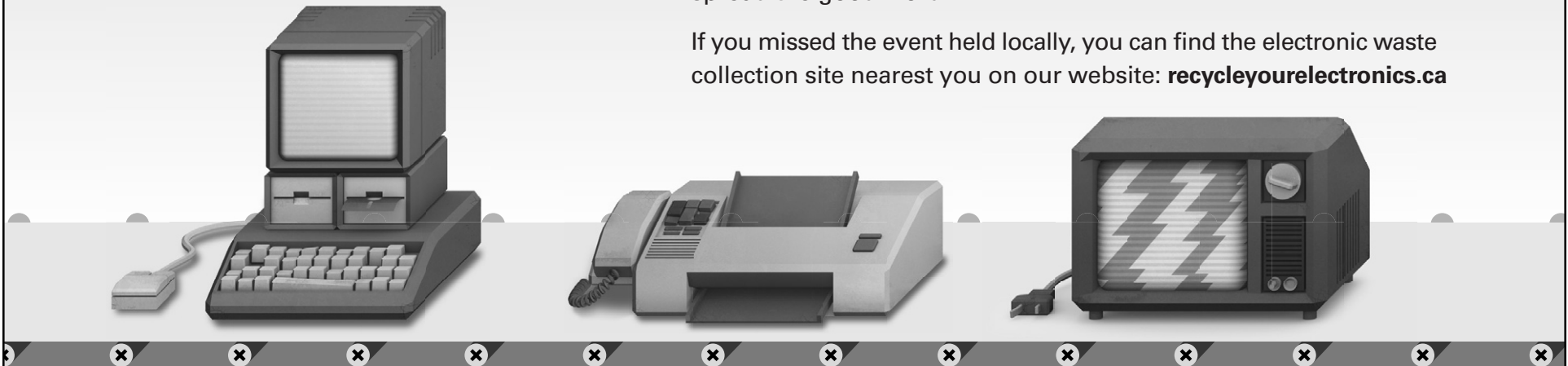
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Myriah Stoughton receives spirit award

Myriah Stoughton, left, was the recipient of Gooderham's community spirit award at the community's annual Christmas dinner on Dec. 11. Stoughton, 84, is a member of numerous church and community committees, including the organizing committee for Gooderham Horseshoe Days. She is also a great, great grandmother. Presenting the award was Barb Bader, chairwoman of the Gooderham Community Action Committee.

Chad Ingram Echo staff



Gooderham lights Christmas tree

Santa Claus himself lit up the community Christmas tree outside the Gooderham fire hall on Saturday night.

Chad Ingram
Echo staff



Firefighters collect food and toys

Dysart firefighters Dave McKay, left, and Murray Miscio, along with chief Miles Maughan, were at Todd's Independent on Dec. 11, collecting food and toys that were donated to the 4Cs Food Bank.

Chad Ingram Echo staff



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Community Kitchen helps 34 families

On Dec. 6, SIRCH Community Kitchen volunteers banded together to put together hand-designed packages of Christmas goodies for the 34 families that SIRCH provides programming to. The Community Kitchen is running this winter due to community donations.

Photo submitted by Nancy Brownsberger



Fun at Festive Fitness

Join Suzanne Haedicke, Kathy Carey, Lynda Shadbolt and Katie Hammerschmidt (from Blue Sky Yoga Studio) for a fun evening celebration of being active, healthy and happy.

This fitness party is being called "Kicking Zumpiloga" and everyone who wants to learn more about zumba, kickboxing, pilates, qigong or yoga is welcome to come. The evening will include fun music, wonderful door prizes, yummy snacks, great company and short introductory classes to each of the activities.

No experience is necessary and there is no pressure to do anything except enjoy being together in the Christmas spirit. The cost for the evening is \$20, which will be given as a donation to the Haliburton County Food for Kids breakfast and snack programs. The party will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 22 from 5:30 to 7ish at the Dysart Community Centre (above the rink).

People are welcome to drop in for any part of the evening (Zumba will start at 5:30, followed by kickboxing, pilates and then qigong and yoga). If you are definitely coming we would appreciate an RSVP to help us with numbers for planning the snacks. You can RSVP with Lynda, Suzanne or Kathy. We recommend that you bring some water to drink, running shoes if you plan on trying the zumba and a yoga mat/towel if you plan on trying the yoga (some mats will be available). For full details check out www.haliburtonyoga.com. We hope to see you there.

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Nutrition program says goodbye to founder and chairwoman

Angelica Blenich
Staff reporter

Thousands of children in Haliburton County have been served either a breakfast or a snack in their school thanks to Karen Phipps and Rosie Kadwell.

Phipps and Kadwell have been involved with the Food for Kids Student Nutrition Program, a not-for-profit organization that provides more than 4,000 healthy snacks each week to all students in the county, since developing it in 2000.

However, starting in 2011 Phipps, the program's creator and coordinator, and Kadwell, chairwoman of the program's steering committee, will no longer be the driving forces behind the organization, as both individuals will be leaving the program.

Phipps and Kadwell were recognized for their many years of commitment and dedication to the program at the Food for Kids annual holiday volunteer appreciation luncheon held on Dec. 10 at the Haliburton United Church.

"We've got a lot of changes to tell you about," said Kadwell as she greeted the volunteers in attendance. "There are some new people to introduce."

Kadwell informed volunteers that due to restructuring within the Haliburton health unit, where she works as a public dietician, she would be stepping down from the nutrition program.

"Gail Stelter will be taking over as the steering committee chair," said Kadwell, "and Jenna Burnett will become the new Food for Kids Haliburton County coordinator."

Officially hired on in late October, Burnett will be filling the position formerly held by Phipps.

"I want to thank you all for coming today," said Burnett upon being introduced to the volunteers. "I'm so happy to be here and in this position."

Burnett, who is new to the community, acknowledged the big shoes she will have to fill upon Kadwell and Phipps's departure.

"On behalf of the steering committee and all the volunteers involved we would like to give them a big thank you for their contribution to the program," said Burnett. "I know they will be greatly missed and we are so thankful to them for their dedication."

For both Kadwell and Phipps, the goodbye was an emotional one.

"My heart will always be with Food for Kids," said Kadwell. "If you ever need a volunteer you know where to find me. I'm confident Jenna will do a great job."

Kadwell thanked Phipps for developing the program and overseeing it for the past 10 years.

"The best thing about working with Karen is we've developed this friendship that we'll have forever," said Kadwell. "Karen is a very compassionate, dependable, hard working professional. Over the past 10 years she has turned some very challenging projects into very successful programs. Karen is able to knit people together with very different agendas and lead them towards common goals. Always smiling and friendly, her positive attitude mobilizes others to join her in her efforts, whatever they may be."

"On behalf of the steering committee and all the volunteers we will miss working with you but know you will touch the lives of many students in your new role as a teacher at Wilberforce Elementary School."

With tears in her eyes Phipps thanked Kadwell and those involved with the program.

"I'm getting emotional," said Phipps. "Thank you so much for your commitment to the kids and the nutritional health of our community."

Phipps was presented with a certificate of recognition from the County of Haliburton for the program creation and for her commitment during the past decade.

Burnett acknowledged other volunteers moving on from the program, including Joyce Stephen, Judy Phipps, Carol Maracle, Angela McGreevy, Joanne Barnes, Rob Stonehouse, Melanie Scheffee, Judy Coles, Shaylene Smith, Irene Houtby, Tina and Gerald Hadley, June Beedle, Lisa Wyer and Mary Nesbitt.

"We wouldn't be here without all of your

hard work," said Burnett. "I want to say thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers."

"Hopefully we can keep this program going."

The program receives base funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and the Trillium Lakelands District School Board, however additional grants and community donations are needed to meet funding requirements.

Those interested in donating to the Food for Kids program or becoming a volunteer are encouraged to contact Burnett at 705-935-0114 or jburnettfood4kids@gmail.com.



Angelica Blenich Echo staff

Karen Phipps, left, holds up a certificate of recognition from the County of Haliburton for developing and coordinating the Food for Kids Student Nutrition Program for the past 10 years. Jenna Burnett, far right, presents public health dietician Rosie Kadwell with flowers for acting as chairwoman of the nutrition program's steering committee for the past 10 years.

Both Kadwell and Phipps will be leaving the program, however Phipps will stay on as a volunteer. Burnett will be taking the reins as the program's new coordinator.

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Position	Name	Points
1	Eric Casper	543
2	Eric Schuster	539
3	Eleanor Lymer	513
4	Bryan Rivard	512
5	Jeff Barry	493
6	Ronald Sedley	489
7	Scott LaRue	477
8	Paul Cameron	475
9	Andrew McGill	473.25
10	Bob McKay	464.25
11	Maie Arike	463.25
12	Martin Schuster	459.25
13	Jordan Hamilton	445
14	Melissa White	443
15	Ian Kemp	440.25
16	Larry Southgate	437
17	Orville Meeke	436.25
18	David Douglas	435
19	Nancy Holden	430.75
20	Robert Mclvor	428.75
21	Michael Moxley	428.25
22	Ray Lymer	425.25
23	Chase Heinemann	421
24	R Bell	416
25	Beryl Rasmus	414
26	Pat Barry	410.75
27	Dwight Thomas	408.25
28	JoAnne Sharpley	406
29	Rhonda Shaw	405.75
30	Andrew Carmount	402.75
31	Denniella Rivard	402.75
32	Matt Prichard	401.25
33	Jonathan Sharpley	398
34	Gerald Ainsworth	393.75
35	Dan MacMillan	393
36	Jamie Pritchard	388
37	Robin Carmount	382
38	Larry Holden	381
39	Bruce Fisher	381
40	Ann Mclvor	377
41	Peter R Stelter	373
42	Norm Bottum	371.25
43	Richard Rasmus	371
44	Audrey Sedley	367.25
45	Shannon Robertson	359.25
46	Daniel Rivard	359
47	Matt Mihlik	358.25
48	Paydon Miscio	350.25

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Dixon reflects on life's journey with fourth solo album

Angelica Blenich
Staff reporter

Carl Dixon is a lucky dog.

The singer, songwriter and musician who has made Haliburton his home for the past five years needs no more proof than his recently released album, titled *Lucky Dog*, to be reminded of this fact.

"The title refers to the crash and an overview of my life," said Dixon, who survived a car accident in Australia in 2008. "I believe I've had a charmed life, despite having an artist's life filled with peaks and valleys. But I could have never been anything else."

"It's not so much that I've had this career that I consider lucky, it's the events and the outcome of them. For that I feel like I'm a lucky dog."

Lucky Dog marks the fourth solo studio album for Dixon, an artist who has been in the music business for more than 20 years playing with bands such as April Wine, The Guess Who and Coney Hatch.

A work in progress for the past two years, the album was put on hold while the musician's life took some unexpected twists. For Dixon, the album is a constant reminder of all the things he has to be thankful for.

"I had begun some of the songs prior to the crash," said Dixon in regards to the album's early stages. "I ended up scrapping about 80 per cent of that."

"Some of it just didn't quite match up to what I was thinking and some of it didn't feel right after I was hurt and I started to see things differently."

"I recognized it was maybe time for a fresh perspective after I crashed."

Following the events of the crash Dixon went back to the drawing board and began working on a new and different style of music than he was familiar with.

"I finally started to push getting this album done this past February, about two years after my crash, and I was still way more damaged than I knew."

The result was an album filled with guitar melodies, rock harmonies and a touch of folk music.

Apart from the crash, Dixon was inspired by a number of other things during the construction of the album, including the power of love.



Angelica Blenich Echo staff

Musician, singer and songwriter Carl Dixon soaks up a breathtaking and picturesque winter morning outside his Haliburton home with a Lada guitar he designed himself. Dixon's fourth and most recent solo album *Lucky Dog* reflects on the events the singer experienced during the past two years, including a car crash that changed Dixon's perspective on life.

"My first band [Coney Hatch] was all about being tough and rough and mushy love songs weren't welcome at the time," said Dixon.

"I came to the realization that now is the time to really just express what I think, get over any fear about worrying what someone else might think. If you want to be an artist you have to bring out what you think and what your beliefs are."

"That's a stage I reached in the aftermath, just letting these very emotional things be

representative of me to the world."

Songs that directly relate to the crash include *The Point of This Life*, written in Iceland during the album's production stage. Dixon travelled to the European country for the first time in his life to work with a sound engineer who is an old friend.

"I have always had this urge to see what Iceland was like," said Dixon.

"I was lying in this bed and breakfast in this small town in Iceland in the dark and the line came through my mind 'there must be

a guardian angel watching over me'. As soon as I said that I felt this tingle on my neck. I started to get a couple of more lines falling into place and then I realized a song was coming."

"That song really was not so much a response to the crash but a response to what I learned about the world after it happened."

The album includes 14 songs, all of which were written by Dixon except one. While making the album, Dixon discovered some local talent whom he decided needed to be incorporated into his sound.

"My daughter Lauren overheard Jocelyn Regina and Brittany Robinson practising during one of her piano lessons and told me I had to hear them because they were just so good. A few days later I heard them play at an event and I was transformed. Not only with surprise at how good they were but with the idea of working them into what I was doing. It was so powerful I knew it could only add value to my music."

Dixon contacted the duo, known as The Lonely Petunias, to see if they were interested in recording with him.

"They were, but were nervous as they had never recorded before. They didn't even know if they were good. The first song I got them in on was *Mercy*."

Dixon is touring and promoting the album both locally and regionally: what he calls the difficult part of making an album.

Reflecting on what he defines as the crowning achievement of his career, Dixon still wells up with emotion when encapsulating the album's significance.

"It represents the achievement of a goal that got me off my near-death-bed and back functioning and striving. It also represents a huge step forward in my own maturity and ability to express emotions and thoughts clearly and in an appealing setting."

"Because my early success came with the hard rock theme for a long time I felt that's who I had to be, long past the point where it was working for me."

"This represents the confident step towards who I really am as an artist for the first time."

Lucky Dog can currently be found at the Canoe FM radio station and throughout town at the Haliburton County Folk Society displays and will be made available on iTunes in the New Year.

The album is also available through Dixon's website, www.carldixon.com.

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What's happening in Haliburton County this winter?

2010-2011

Winter Guide

2010-2011

Winter Guide

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Creepy crawlies invade Grade 7 classroom



Angelica Blenich Echo staff
Brynn Meyers, left, and Christina Stephen, students in Mrs. Brandon's Grade 7 class at JD Hodgson Elementary School learn how to make wire crawlies thanks to a special visit from local artist Erin Lynch in conjunction with the Artists in the Schools program, organized by the Haliburton Highlands Arts Council.

Angelica Blenich
Staff reporter

It may have been a winter wonderland outdoors, but inside Mrs. Brandon's Grade 7 classroom at JD Hodgson Elementary School, creepy crawlies were taking over. Students were learning how to make insects, bugs and other crawling creatures out of wire, pliers, beads and other crafty objects with local artist Erin Lynch on Dec. 8.

Lynch was the first of three artists who will be visiting the Grade 7 classroom this year through the Artists in the Schools pro-

gram facilitated by the Haliburton Highlands Arts Council. According to classroom teacher Lorry Brandon, this is the first year the program has been extended to the Grade 7 and 8 classes.

"I'm just thrilled the students get to have this opportunity," said Brandon. "They're having so much fun."

Lynch has been involved with the program since its inception in 2004. The program's mandate is to offer children who may have limited access to artistic experiences the chance to interact with local professional artists, gain exposure to various careers in the arts and enjoy new art experiences.



Jacob Wolff, left, a student in Mrs. Brandon's Grade 7 class and Amy Black, above, make a wire crawlies.

As of December 1st, we have raised **\$21,076** towards our goal for critical care equipment.

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As the Christmas & Holiday Season approaches, we hope you will give from your heart to care for your family, friends and loved ones.

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MON., DEC. 27th CLOSED
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WED., DEC. 29th CLOSED
THURS., DEC. 30th CLOSED
FRI., DEC. 31st 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
MON., JAN. 3rd CLOSED

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Photographer Nyssa Komorowski, left, and seamstress Stephanie Bell were two of the Fleming College students showing off and selling their works at a student art show at the campus on Dec. 11.

Chad Ingram Echo staff

Halipalooza Show success

Students from Fleming College showed off their semester's work and sold many items to Christmas shoppers Dec. 11. The event show-

cased a wide range of work including painting, fibre art, blacksmithing and mixed media.

At left, Fleming College student Thomas Hiseler said this door knocker, which he intended to give to his father, was his favourite of the many metal pieces he's created.



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Health Unit Holiday Hours



The Health Unit office will be closed for the holiday season on: December 23, 24, 27, 30 and 31.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season from the staff of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit.



Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District
Health Unit

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Website: www.hkpr.on.ca

Rails End Art Safari - a near adventure

On Friday, Dec. 10, an intrepid group of art pilgrims set out to broaden their horizons on the first ever "Rails End Art Safari."

Art Safari was dreamed up on a road trip to Harbourfront a few years ago by Rails End president Vicki Sisson, and curator Laurie Jones.

The principle is simple: chauffeur-driven group day trips to see contemporary art and enjoy interpretive talks by curators and artists.

The first Art Safari took in the Art Gallery of Peterborough, a public art gallery and Peterborough Artspace, an artist-run centre.

At the AGP, the group enjoyed a private tour of "Warm Ice" by curator Carla Garnet. After a delicious lunch at Black Honey we headed round the corner to Artspace to see Elinor Widden's "Voyageur".

As the snow began to fly we boarded our Art Safari-mobile and headed up the Buckhorn Road arriving back at the Rails End by 4 p.m.

Where to next? Plans are already in the works. To stay informed visit www.railsendgallery.com.

Bucket of Shrimp Ears Christmas at Rails End

Saturday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m.

Doors open at 7 and tickets are \$10

Enjoy original songs by local musicians in the artful surroundings of the Rails End with Lois Raw's Townscapes of Haliburton, Minden and Kinmount and Ben Carnochan's Landmarks of Haliburton County.

How's that for an authentic Haliburton event!

All you ever wanted for Christmas was a chance to see the world's most handsome band (Albert Saxby, Ian Pay and Brandon Humphrey) perform their new Christmas song, along with other originals!

For tickets call 457-2330 also available at the door (subject to availability.)

More info www.railsendgallery.com.

The office at **Haliburton Veterinary Services** will be closed from **Dec 24th to Jan 2nd**.

If you have an emergency please call

1-888-234-6801

The office will reopen on **Jan 3rd at 9am.**

Please make sure you have enough medication and food.

Happy Holidays from all of our staff



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Little Redstone Lake Lot \$400,000



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Water Access Acreage \$39,900



9 acre building lot with view over South Lake. Deeded access via ROW to lake. Great place to build your dream home!

Tom Wilkinson 286-2138 x 25

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Janice Brookes 457-2128 x 22

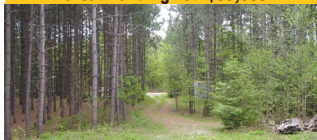
The Quarry - \$319,900



Another elegant 2-storey custom home, 1826 square feet, to be built on Lot 9; maintenance free exterior, geothermal, stonework optional, Plus HST.

Elizabeth Thompson 457-2128 x 52

Great Building Lot \$38,800



Great 2.4 acre building lot. Close to town. Driveway in. Cleared area ready for your new home. Hydro already on the property. Beautiful reforested pines.

John Hincks 286-2138 x 50

In-Town Home \$269,000



Almost 2 acre lot backing onto Old Mill Pond. Features 2 self-contained living quarters. Perfect for large family or rental. Walking distance to amenities. Minutes to lake access.

Andrea Wilson 457-2128 x 25

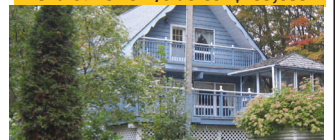
In Town Living! \$259,000



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Drew Bishop 457-2128 x 23

Chalet Home w/5 acres! \$233,900



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Janice Brookes 457-2128 x 22

Cranberry Lake \$379,900



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Drew Bishop 457-2128 x 23

Billings Lake Point Lot \$269,000



This Point Lot provides wonderful privacy on .68 Acre with 550 Ft frontage. Multiple exposures with cozy 3 bedroom original cottage close to water. Just move right in!!

Mark Dennys 457-2128 x 30

Sharon Lake \$219,900



Starter cottage on quiet lake with great location close to the town of Minden. Nice lot with good privacy, quaint cottage plus bunkie. Year round road access..

Susanne James & Andy Mosher 457-2128 x 33

Location! Location! Location! \$399,000



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Ed Gibbons 286-2138 x 28

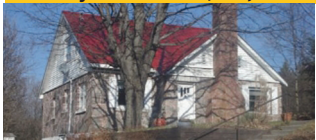
Soyers Lake



Great starter cottage on this premier lake! 165 feet of frontage, huge view and sunset exposure. Charming 3 bedroom and 1 bath cottage with lots of pine and propane fireplace.

Derrell & Kim Stamp 457-2128 x 24

Newly Renovated! \$249,000



4 BR 2 bath home in Haliburton features stone siding, metal roof, hardwood floors, a fireplace & 3 season porch. Bonus: 1 bed, 1 bath apt/ in-law suite makes this an excellent investment property!

Greg Stamp 457-2128 x 28

Miskwabi Area Cottage \$149,999



This 3 Bedroom cottage very close to public access to Miskwabi Lake is in great condition and completely turn key. Large private 1 acre lot stretches into the hardwood forest.

Andrew Hodgson 286-2138 x 29

Drag River Lot \$79,900



Beautiful secluded 2.8 acre lot with over 240 ft frontage on the Drag River. Driveway in, building lot cleared, minutes to Minden or Haliburton.

Anne Moulton 286-2138 x 24

Carnarvon Home and Acreage \$349,900



Well maintained 3 bedroom 2 bathroom home of 1868 s.f. on 100 acres near Carnarvon. Newer septic, metal roof, drilled well, separate insulated workshop or studio with own septic and propane heat.

Dagmar Boettcher 489-9968

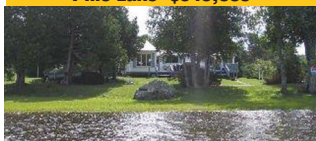
2 Bedroom Bungalow \$149,900



Maintenance free vinyl clad exterior siding and windows, large living room, Kitchen/Dinette with newer cabinets & patio door out to large deck. Full high unfinished basement. Immediate possession.

Erin Nicholls 457-2128 x 34

Pine Lake \$349,000



Lakeside Living! 3 Lake chain, mins to Ski Hill & Snowmobile Trails. 1.25 acre parcel w/large water ftg. 2+1 BR; cabana, storage shed & workshop onsite. Lots of Value.

Karen Nimigon 457-2128 x 29

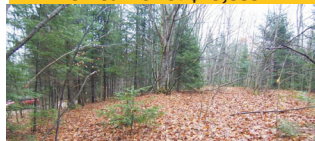
Beautiful Cedar Lake \$329,000



This terrific 2+ bedroom cottage features 2 bathrooms and a main floor laundry on a great level lot with easy access and wonderful sunset views.

David Lee 286-2138 x 27

Sir Sam's Lot \$18,900



Pretty building lot for either a ranch bungalow or a walkout basement. Close to public beach on Eagle Lake and Sir Sam's Ski Resort.

Lee Gauthier 489-9968

Timberframe on 3 Acres \$269,900



Large 3 BR home with granite wood burning fireplace, propane fireplace, large kitchen, garage & storage shed. Large pond with dock for swimming or fishing.

Tom Gardner 286-2138 x 30

Haliburton Building Lot \$44,900



2+ private acres in an area of nice homes with year round access on the edge of Haliburton. Driveway in & building site cleared, + an extra entrance is cleared & permitted. Hydro, phone & high speed internet at the lot line. Great opportunity to build your dream home.

Wilfred VanLieshout 457-2128 x 27



Drew Bishop**
457-2128 x 23



Janice Brookes *
457-2128 x 22



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David Lee *
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Elizabeth Thompson *
457-2128 x 52



Wilfred VanLieshout**
457-2128 x 27



Tom Wilkinson **
286-2138 x 25



Andrea Wilson *
457-2128 x 25

Public's nominations sought in business awards

Jenn Watt
Editor

While the Chamber of Commerce's achievement awards are designed to honour local businesses, that doesn't mean the nominations should only come from the business community.

In fact, the chamber is redoubling its efforts this year to get the Haliburton County community in general to put in a nomination in one of the eight categories to be honoured at this year's awards gala at Pinestone Resort Jan. 15.

"It's one thing when the business community nominates someone, it's another thing when the whole commu-

nity does it," Kendra Kellett, administrative assistant of the Chamber of Commerce said.

This year, a dinner for two at an area restaurant will be raffled off as an incentive for all those who nominate businesses and individuals for awards.

In addition, there will be more member input on award winners this year than ever before with a special online voting component for shortlisted nominees.

With the results of the survey, seven local business people on the awards committee will make their final selections, which will then be honoured at the gala.

Although the votes will be taken into consideration, the committee will be making the decision based on how the nominees demonstrate excellence in leadership and entrepreneurship, product or market innovations, significant business achievement, sales and/or employment growth and technological advancement, excellence in community relations/contribution, environmental consciousness,

customer service and reliability, high standard of employee relations and contributes to the economic health of the Haliburton Highlands.

Nominations can be made for small business of the year; large business of the year; not-for-profit business of the year; customer service of the year; young entrepreneur of the year; skilled trades award; innovation and creativity award; and highlander of the year.

The skilled trades and innovation and creativity awards are new to the gala.

"The skilled trades was one that a lot of other chambers had that we didn't have," Kellett said, noting that the creativity award was a suggestion from the Haliburton County Development Corporation.

Nomination forms can be found on the chamber's website: www.haliburtonhighlandschamber.on.ca and must be submitted by Friday, Dec. 17.

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...And to All Those who entered a Float,
 ...and to anyone else we may have missed!
 Special Thanks to Jerry and Helen Lis for the
 Town Christmas Tree, to Lyle Stamp and the Dysart
 Firefighters for tree delivery and set-up,
 and to "Rick and Terri" for the music!

FROM: JIM FROST
 Parade Coordinator
 The Haliburton Village BIA/ The Haliburton & District Lions Club

See You Next Year!

Driving habits can save or waste gas



Closer Look
Russ Bond,
QMI Agency
r.bond@russbondagency.com

We all try to save fuel wherever we can but the problem comes in when we are in a bit of a hurry, or we are focused

on enjoying a spirited drive, not saving fuel. Basically, our driving habits - with respect to fuel economy - are based on whether we happen to be thinking about saving fuel at the time or not.

More often than not, we aren't thinking about it and therefore we don't save as much fuel as we should be able to.

So, if we had a car that constantly "thought" about saving fuel, or helping us to save fuel, that would be a good thing as it would be on all the time, regardless of whether we were in fuel saving mode or not.

Recently, I had a chance to experience the Infiniti M37 which has Infiniti's eco-pedal system.

Now, it really is a simple system that works brilliantly. What happens is if you select "eco" mode on the centre-console, the throttle pedal instantly becomes much harder to press. There is a push-back system on the pedal, which immediately makes you think about just how hard you are pushing the pedal down.

The pedal itself can be set to three different settings - full, soft and off. This setting regulates how hard the pedal pushes back.

How it works is that the computer system has programming that realizes the ideal amount of throttle required to pull away from a stop or to accelerate at any time.

This programming matches performance against fuel economy. So, what happens is that as you push the throttle pedal, the position of the throttle pedal is measured against that programming.

As you reach the outer limits of the program, the pedal becomes harder to press, thus resulting in your staying more in the "eco" end of the scale, rather than the performance end.

In addition, the pedal force can be overcome if need be. For instance, if you have it in eco mode, and you pull away from a stop and notice maybe you didn't have as much room as you thought, and a car is gaining on you quick, you can stand on the pedal and you'll have all the performance you will need to make a quick get-away.

The system works very well, and I was impressed with the amount of L/100km improvements I saw while using the system.

I drove my usual way in the morning, and saw an average of 16 L/100km on the display, then drove in the afternoon - in similar conditions - with the system on and it dropped to 10.1.

The benefit of this system to Infiniti buyers is that the car is always in fuel savings mode, even if the driver isn't thinking about it at that minute.

It is one of the most helpful fuel saving options out there.

Find more auto news on autonet.ca.

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Hats off to the tree cutting pros

I became a cottage owner along with my husband more than 20 years ago in the Haliburton region and there are basically two kinds. Either you are a year-round cottage owner or a seasonal cottage owner. I fall into the latter category.

Along with the fun, the sun, the swimming, the dock-sitting, morning walks and midnight bonfires, comes the responsibilities to maintain your property. Most friends and/or family do not often realize the amount of work and upkeep required to maintain a cottage so that you can enjoy it for many years to come.

Every spring, on our first trip into the cottage, we do the basic check to see if intruders have entered the premises, meaning animal or man, along with checking for any major damage on the outside as well. This past year we noticed that the 60-foot birch tree hovering next to the cottage was missing a sizeable branch that had broken off. It had clipped the side of our stove-pipe chimney. Ouch!

All summer there was much fretting over this tree and much breath-holding during any windy storms. Fall had finally arrived and we had some major decisions to make. Let's get rid of that danger tree! My husband has a fairly decent record when it comes to cutting down trees, although he has been known to drop the odd one on outdoor buildings, such as our outhouse. So now, when it comes to the extremely difficult ones, he takes care and calls in the professionals.

Within a week, the arrangements were made and two men showed up at our door with tree-cutting equipment, a coffee in each hand and a cigarette going. After precise calculations, by way of their special tree-cutting lingo, it was time to start. One supervised and one climbed. The climber strapped into his spurs along with a lot of ropes,

clips and a hand saw, inched his way to the peak of a very flimsy branch. The supervisor tossed up more ropes, which ultimately hung down over branches.

I became a little skeptical and extremely fearful that the ol' tree would crack at an inappropriate time and the fellow at the top would come crashing down on the rocks below. I scampered up the hill with much trepidation, for a better view with one hand over my eyes – should I watch, should I not watch?

The climber was safely harnessed and grabbed his hand saw and starting cutting. As the saw broke through each limb, it was carefully lowered to the ground gently and with ease. This was safe, I thought and so far so good. However, the next manoeuvre had me even more concerned and extremely nervous. Now an actual chainsaw was attached to a rope that was now being hoisted up by a rope to the climber in the tree. More tree-cutting lingo continued. Was this guy crazy? He clenched his spurs firmly into the trunk of the tree. He then decided to light a cigarette and have a smoke! The chainsaw had finally made its way up and the

cutting commenced. The sawdust was flying and it was everywhere! Even so, somehow, he managed to cut off perfect log-sized pieces and toss them below with great ease placing the chainsaw in some kind of holster. This continued on until finally nothing else remained except for the mammoth tree trunk. It was now time to make the final drop. More ropes were being properly placed and further careful calculations were pondered. The climber had made his way down to the ground and the final cutting began. With much skill and accuracy, it came crashing down at precisely the spot they motioned to.

Well, it was done, it was over and the only thing left was the clean up including the splitting and cutting. That's when my husband took over.

As a cottage owner, one can't always justify the expense in upkeep. But on this particular day, I could and everyone and everything was safe – including my outhouse. My hat's off to those pro-tree cutters. They are a unique breed.

-Submitted by Jo-Ann Sloan, Esson Lake cottager



SunLife gives \$1,177

Shawn Hagerman of SunLife Financial, far right, presents a \$1,177.20 cheque to Don Popple, campaign co-chair of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, far left, and Dale Walker, executive director of the foundation. The funds were provided through a grant by the Canadian Million Dollar Roundtable Charitable Foundation (MDRTF), an international, independent association of financial services professionals worldwide. A lifetime member and knight of the organization, Hagerman assisted with the grant proposal by recommending the HHHSF. Since 2008, the HHHSF has received \$2,588 in total from the MDRTF. The donation will be used to fund a glidescope, which is used to clear and view airways, part of the priority equipment which the foundation hopes to completely fund totaling \$140,000.

Angelica Blenich Echo staff




Wildlife in your backyard

Have a great nature shot? Send it to jwatt@haliburtonecho.ca. The bigger the file size the bigger we can print it.

Brian Tink of Beech Lake took this photo of wild turkeys at his feeder Nov. 30.

Church Events



Harcourt Community Chapel

Special Activities for December 2010

Sunday Dec. 19 at 7:00pm
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Steve & Stephanie Smith @ 457-3394
or Sue Bain @ 457-2570

Lakeside Baptist Church
 9 Park Street
 Haliburton, ON
 457-2851



St. George's Church fills with festive sounds

The Highlands Concert Band put on a show featuring classic Christmas music at Haliburton's St. George's Anglican Church on Dec. 9. The concert was a food drive for the local food banks and the collected items were split equally between the banks in Haliburton and Minden. The Algonquin Brass and cellist Bethany Houghton also performed.

At left, the French horn section provided the soft undertones of Christmas classics.



Chad Ingram Echo staff
The Highlands Concert Band provided an evening of Christmas warmth with their festive melodies.

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Sports



Darren Lum Echo staff

Red Hawks forward Sam Tallman scores the game winner against the Adam Scott Collegiate Vocational Institute during the third period of the Haliburton home opener on Wednesday, Dec. 8. Haliburton won 5-3 and squared up their league record (1-0-1).

Year of firsts for Hawks hockey

Darren Lum
Staff reporter

When it's your first year everything is new.

This didn't diminish the team's first taste of victory in front of a small, but appreciative home crowd against the Adam Scott Collegiate Vocational Institute Lions at the Dysart Arena in Haliburton on Wednesday, Dec. 8.

The lady Red Hawks showed they were better than the usual expansion team, looking to be competitive, as they controlled their opponents for the most part, winning 4-3.

Although both teams were knotted 2-2 in the third period, the game took on a new complexion when the Red Hawks did more than just kill off a minor penalty served by Jessica Duchene.

After pushing the puck deep in the Lions end, Haliburton's forward Sam Tallman sent the puck back to the point for Grade 9 player Julia Fedeski, who sent a low wrist shot that eluded the Lions keeper low and on the far side for a one goal lead, 3-2.

The goal gave back the Red Hawks a needed momentum shift after losing the lead from two late-period goals in the second period.

Haliburton was penalized again when Tallman was caught tripping, putting the Red Hawks down two players. The penalty-

killing unit was successful not allowing a goal or a quality scoring chance.

Seconds after Tallman burst from the penalty box she tallied the insurance marker and the eventual game winner off a wrap-around goal, sliding the shot under the Lions goalie's pad, 4-2.

The Lions scored with 1:22 left in the game to narrow the margin, but Haliburton exhibited great character, withstanding the final offensive onslaught by the Lions when they pulled their goalie for the extra attacker.

Megan Allore put the game away off a pass from an assist by the game's offensive juggernaut forward Tallman, scoring the empty-net goal though.

Tallman finished with five points (two goals and three assists).

Haliburton's goalie Jillian Mayhew was solid between the pipes in the win. Her first.

She made a few key saves with less than a minute in the game, including a stop inside her crease when a Lions player Jenna Clark stood alone, unable to slide it pass her.

Despite dropping their first game of the season against Lakefield, the Red Hawks had reason to celebrate more than the win, as the team showed resolve and composure in this game.

Fedeski finished with three points (two goals and an assist) while Duchene added an assist.

The Red Hawks are 1-0-1 on the season.

Red Hawks senior volleyball takes big leap forward

Darren Lum
Staff reporter

The Red Hawks senior girls' volleyball team is showing dramatic improvement after its second pre-season volleyball tournament of the Kawartha West league season in Haliburton on Wednesday, Dec. 8.

After they split one match out of five in their last tournament that included the same set of competitors - I.E. Weldon Secondary School Wildcats, Lindsay Collegiate Vocational Institute Spartans, Fenelon Falls Secondary School Falcons, St. Thomas Aquinas Titans and Brock High School - the Red Hawks bounced back with a third place finish behind Lindsay rivals I.E. Weldon, who went undefeated through five matches.

Co-coach Caley Sisson said this performance was "phenomenal" after the tough start to the pre-season in their first tournament.

With four team points, the Red Hawks were one point shy of second place, occupied by the Spartans, who they split a match with in the best of two rally-point matches.

Co-coach Steve Smith said the team's serving was working overall and was key to their success.

"If you can't get the ball over the net, you can't get any points," he said, adding this helps to maintain offensive momentum and prevents giving any easy points away in the rally-point games.

The team's performance up to the fourth game was strong, but the players' focus seemed to get derailed against the eventual tournament winners, the Wildcats, who shutout Haliburton (10-25, 13-25).

The team's serving was at its weakest and they just "fell asleep," according to the

coach.

"The next time we meet them it'll be a different outcome," Smith said.

However, Haliburton found its groove again against the Fenelon Falls Secondary School Falcons to finish the tournament, finishing as they started, strongly, winning both games (25-21, 25-22) in the match.

After this tournament, team practices will focus on improving movement, coverage on the short ball (specifically referring to tips at the net) and positioning, the coaches said.

The 14-member team has only five senior players (Grade 11 and higher) with the balance comprising of Grade 10 athletes.

Though the learning curve is steep, the players have been doing well, Smith said.

The remaining five pre-season tournament games will be on the road: all at Kawartha West playoffs scheduled for Feb. 8.

The team will be playing three additional tournaments outside of the Kawartha West competition to get more playing time and experience.

Notable: solid performances from setters Jessica Rider and Jessica Bishop while libero-defensive specialist-Casey Pringle showcased an array of digging skills, including strong net play from hitters Jenna Dibblee, Alyssa Hobden, Shaylynn Hutchings, Ali Hicks and Tiffany vanLieshout, all with several blocks and kills in the tournament.

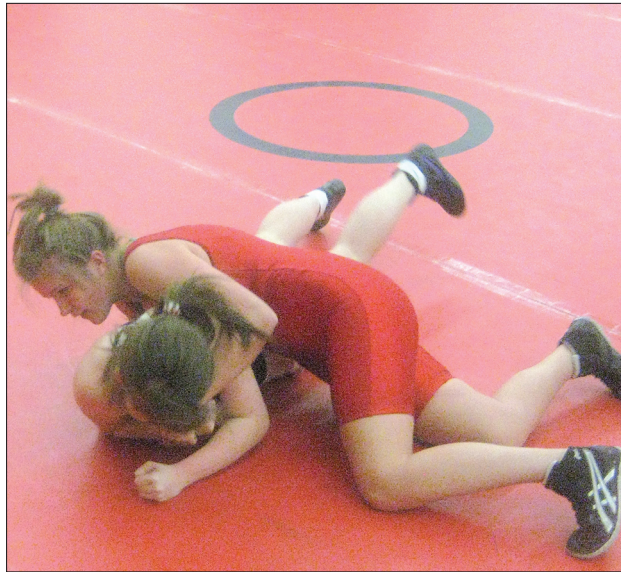
The balance of the team displayed consistent passing and blocking abilities, most notably Brigitta Hicks, Jaimie Dack, Ashley Proctor, Grace Diezel and Hilliary Hawley.

Sandy Griffith is nursing broken toes and was on the bench for moral support and kept statistics for the coaching staff. She is expected to return to the lineup after the holidays.



Red Hawks senior girls player Jenna Dibblee gets her hand on the ball, challenging for a point in a game during pre-season tournament play in Haliburton on Wednesday, Dec. 8. Haliburton finished third, beating out Fenelon Falls Secondary School two straight (25-21, 25-22) in their final match of the five match tournament./Photo by Darren Lum
More sports photos at www.haliburtonecho.ca

Lily Coneybeare scores a point on her opponent in the semi-final match in a wrestling tournament in Bancroft on Tuesday, Dec. 7. Coneybeare was a gold medalist (67.5 kg). Photo submitted.



Hawks grapple with gold

On Tuesday, Dec. 7, the Red Hawks wrestling team showed continued success at the annual North Hastings High School Wrestling Tournament held in Bancroft. Approximately 200 wrestlers

from around the COSSA region attended. Twelve Haliburton wrestlers placed in the medal rounds. - submitted by HHSS coaching staff

Red Hawks results:

Women
Gold Medalists Kayla Gardiner (47.5 kg)
Caitlyn Griffin (51 kg)
Lily Coneybeare (67.5 kg)
Silver Medalist Megan Tompos (UNL)
Bronze Medalist Jen Woolacott (61 kg)

Men
Gold Medalists Cody Cox (54 kg)
Gage Shelly (61 kg)
Dylan Graham (UNL)
Silver Medalist Alex Wingrove (UNL)
Bronze Medalists Tom Paul (64 kg)
Stephen Fraser (67.5 kg)
Riley Tait (77 kg)

Haliburton Ski Club pulls trigger on new sport

Blake Paton
Special to the Echo

The Haliburton Highlands Cross-Country Ski Club introduced a new form of biathlon to club members this year – paintball biathlon. The unveiling came at the annual membership meeting held Dec. 4 at Glebe Park in Haliburton.

The snow gods smiled and sent just enough to get a short loop skiing nicely, and some lucky members were treated to their first taste of biathlon. It's an Olympic

winter sport that combines marksmanship and cross-country skiing.

The club invested in paintball equipment as a way to expand its youth programs. This form of biathlon is safe since the skiers shoot only at the five targets at their shooting station. The use of paintball rather than the traditional firearms or air rifles makes the activity safe for participants and spectators alike.

So far the activity has been described as "awesome!" by all those who have tried it. The club plans a paintball biathlon fun race for Jan. 2, 2011 at Glebe Park starting at 11 a.m. Although targeted at youth, the event will be open to all ages with age categories for all.

The activity will be integrated into the club's youth programs after Jan. 2. Those who might be interested should check out www.skihaliburton.com for full information on the club's programs. Prospective members should remember that the early-bird renewal discount ends on Dec. 15.

The website is also the place to check on ski conditions. Skiing began on Dec. 3 and the amount of groomed trail available will be increasing as snow conditions permit throughout the month.



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS

Early Deadlines

Ad deadline for

HALIBURTON ECHO Dec. 28th is Wednesday Dec. 22 nd at Noon	HALIBURTON ECHO Jan. 4th is Wednesday Dec. 29 th at Noon
MINDEN TIMES Dec. 29th is Thursday Dec. 23rd at Noon	MINDEN TIMES Jan. 5th is Thursday Dec. 30th at Noon

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Christmas Bonspiel draws fun



There were 24 youth participants from the Youth Club competing in the annual Christmas Bonspiel hosted by and at the Haliburton Curling Club on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 7. The youth are between Grades 4-8 and participated in the annual event. The club plays every Tuesday from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and receive instruction by Ontario Curling Association certified instructors. It starts in October and ends in March with a break during the last half of December.



Clockwise, above, Victoria Hawley pushes from the hack, showing her form; Shane O'Reilly slides with his rock, eyeing his target in the house; from left, Glenn Bagg and Shane O'Reilly point to the scoreboard, discussing the score, as high school volunteer and curling mentor Kat Coneybeare looks on during a warm-up game before the Christmas Youth Curling Bonspiel at the Haliburton Curling Club on Tuesday, Dec. 7. The club is appreciative to Haliburton Subway and 241 Pizza.

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Storm teams have great showing at Silverstick

On Dec. 4 and 5 16 Atom and Pee wee teams had a great weekend at our Silverstick Regional.

Over the past weekend 16 Bantam and Midget minor hockey teams travelled to Haliburton County to participate in the annual Silverstick qualifying tournament. From Napanee to Glanbrook, from Norwood to Mount Brydges (near London) and everywhere in between, the visiting teams put on an excellent show along with our host teams during the eighth running of our now famous tournament. The host Highland Storm teams did our county proud as the Parker Pad and Printing Bantams made it to the semi-finals losing to a strong Lindsay team. The Haliburton Timbr-Mart Midgets lost to Huntsville in the championship game. Great job by both teams, players, parents and coaches!

Our Regional Champions this year heading to the Silverstick finals in Niagara Falls are Collingwood in the Atom group (runners up Highland Storm), Port Perry in the Pee wee group (runners up Napanee), Mount Brydges in the Bantam group (runners up Lindsay), and Huntsville in the Midget group (runners up Highland Storm). We wish all our champions the best of luck in the North American Finals.

On behalf of Highland Storm Minor Hockey I would like to thank all four host teams for doing a bang up job, for without your great contributions these tournaments would not happen. I would also like to thank Bonnie Thompson for her awesome programs, Joanne Aggett for her excellent Wall Charts, Carol and Fred Simmons, Ritchie Lyddiatt and his wife for great team lunches, Joel Mulock and all his referees, time keepers Eric Nicholls, Jarrett Campbell, Kelsey Campbell and Tanner Ballantyne for doing a great job and last but not least Ivan Ingram and Carl Rowbotham for their off ice entertainment, you guys are funny! Thanks and see you next year.

Submitted by Wade MacInnes, Silverstick tournament director



Chad Ingram Echo staff

Storm players battle for the puck against the Campbellford Colts on Day 1 of the Silverstick tournament this weekend.

to date and tried to rebound from suffering their first loss the weekend before ... but with less than three minutes left in the game, Keene capitalized on a power-play to score the eventual game winning goal. Final score 1-0. Great effort, girls. Get ready for this weekend's road trip double-header in Port Hope Saturday afternoon and then at Cold Creek in the evening. Next home game is Sunday against the Port Hope Polar Bears in Haliburton at 4:30.

- Submitted by Dan Marsden

Final Score: 3-2 Highland Storm

Next Games: Dec. 28, in Port Carling at 7 p.m.

As one of our team's wise hockey dads often says, "Any team can win at any time." And that's exactly what looked inevitable as time slowly ticked on into the third period against Huntsville on Saturday. Although the heavily favoured Storm squad dominated the play with some composed passing for most of the game, uneasiness grew as our boys were unable to find the back of the net through two periods. Huntsville on the other hand, made the most of their chances and carried a 2-0 lead into the third.

see page 32

Bantam girls lose close game

The Minden Car Quest Bantam C girls "stormed" into Ontonabee on Saturday afternoon to take on the undefeated Keene Wolverines. The team played one of their best games

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Highland Storm hockey finalists in Peewee, Bantam divisions

from page 31

Quickly the tide turned though, as first Ben Schmidt and then Shawn Walker fought through the stingy defense to tie the game. Then, with just under ten minutes left, Bo Stevenson carried the puck end to end and scored a beautiful backhand over the goalie's shoulder to take the lead and win the game. It was a quality win and the boys should be congratulated for sticking to the game plan and not giving up.

Assists were awarded to Jesse Sisson, Matthew Manning, Jake O'Neill, Alex Petrie, Jaxon Campbell and Noah Black.

As the boys take a break for Christmas, I would like to thank our coaches, Jarrett Campbell, Jordan Joanu, Derrick Nesbitt, our manager, Sheldon Stevenson, and our sponsor, Floyd Hall Insurance, on behalf of the parents. Coaching is a difficult and often thankless job and countless hours are dedicated and sacrificed for these boys on a weekly basis. The best coaches are the ones that realize they are coaching much more than hockey - they are teaching young kids how to face adversity, overcome frustration, and most importantly, that their greatest successes are the ones shared with others. Thank you, Jarrett and the crew - your caring attitude is appreciated and will continue to have an impact long after the season ends.

Submitted by Jon Petrie

Peewee AEs finalists in Huntsville tournament

Randys Tree Care and Landscaping Peewee AEs participated in a three-day tournament in Huntsville this past weekend. A well-run tournament with a raffle table, silent auction, 50/50, face painting and chuck a puck to win a video recorder

and 10 Little Caesars pizzas. The games Friday and Saturday were played on the big ice, the Summit arena and Sunday the semi-finals and finals on the regular Jack Bionda rink.

Friday saw some of the boys missing a whole or half day of school (I am quite sure they were broken hearted) as our first game against Saugeen Shores was at 4 p.m. Saugeen Shores dominated the game until the third period when the Storm scored three goals to take the lead only to have Saugeen tied it up with five seconds to go, with a score of 3-3. Goals going to Regan Casey, Drew

Vanlieshout, and Mac Rider (unassisted). Assists to Alex Wilbee and Jake Bull.

We played two games on Saturday. The first game of the day was at 2 p.m. against the Georgetown Raiders a team from a double A centre. The Raiders had played earlier and defeated Parry Sound Shamrocks 9-0. The Storm boys got into gear and prepared themselves for a tough game of hockey and it paid off. The Storm managed to hold off the Raiders and fared better than Parry Sound with a 4-1 loss. Our only goal of the game was by Alex Wilbee with assists to Greg Crofts and Regan Casey. Our next game at 6 p.m. was against the Parry Sound Shamrocks, which the Storm won 3-0, a shut out for goalie Parker Smolen. Goals go to Max MacNaull, Mitch Billings and Drew Vanlieshout. Assists to Regan Casey, Greg Crofts, John Morrison, Jake Bull and Ethan Cooper. We were not insured to play the next day in the semi-finals until the last game of the day was played at 7 p.m.

Luckily for us the points were in our favor and we returned to play at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, against our hosts, the Huntsville Otters. Some families stayed in

Huntsville while others battled the weather to return Sunday morning.

Sunday saw a good game against Huntsville and the Storm scored two goals in the first period and maintained the lead to the end of the third period giving them a win to move on to the championship game against the Georgetown Raiders who defeated the Bracebridge Bears in their semi-final game. Goals to Jake Bull and Max MacNaull, assists to Mitch Billings, John Morrison, Greg Crofts and Regan Casey. The team prepared

themselves for another game against the Raiders, knowing they would have to play smart, tough hockey. The boys held their own against this tough team and after a hard game came home finalists with a loss of 3-2.

Goals to Alex Wilbee (unassisted) and Ethan Cooper, assists to Max MacNaull and Alex Wilbee. Stars of the game went to Parker Smolen and Regan Casey. All the boys gave their all and should be very proud of themselves with the hockey they played this weekend. Our next home game is Saturday, Dec. 18 against Port Carling in Haliburton at 3:30 p.m.

Submitted by Karena Crofts

Bantam AE boys make it to semi-finals

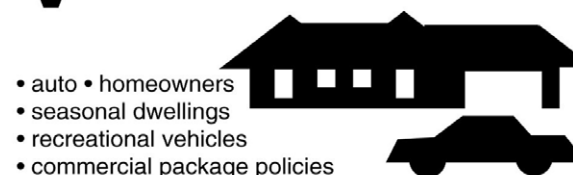
The Highland Storm Bantam AE team opened up the Silver Stick tournament facing the Glanbrook Rangers. The Storm found themselves down 2-0 very quickly due to a couple of bad bounces. The defensive corps of Connor Gadway, Loic Muli, Angus Sullivan, and Stuart Searle along with goalie Logan Churko refused to collapse and shut the door on the Rangers offence. Braden Roberts got the offence started as he stepped around a defender and then tucked home his own rebound. Lucas Esson followed with a goal, using the defenseman as a screen his hard wrister found the top corner of the net. Roberts tallied again with 21 seconds left in the second period to give the Storm the lead for good. Hunter Bishop scored early in the third and Esson roofed one from in tight to up the lead to 3. Glanbrook scored to get them within two. Braden Roberts completed his hat trick with an empty net goal at the buzzer to end the game 6-3. In their second contest the Storm took on the Campbellford Colts. In a tight checking affair Mac Monk-Cray opened the scoring late in the first period. The Colts collected the next two markers and led by one most of the game. The heroics were left to Braden Roberts, who scored on a power play at 1:51 of the third after a nice set up by Ryan Casey and Hunter Bishop. Logan Churko was called upon to make some dramatic saves in the last minute to preserve the 2-2 tie.

The Storm entered the third game of the day facing the Tweed Hawks and knowing that a victory would secure them first place in the division. Both teams looked lethargic at the outset but battled with all they had left in the tank. Tweed controlled the play but despite numerous opportunities they could not beat goalie Logan Churko who turned back the Hawks time and again. Hunter Bishop ended the deadlock by finding a Connor Gadway rebound and stuffing it into the back of the net. The victory secured first place for the Storm and a berth in the semi finals.

The Storm finally fell to defeat in the semi-finals. They faced a strong Lindsay Muskies team and lost 7-0. The team put forth a strong effort and didn't quit. Goalie, Logan Churko kept the Muskies at bay well into the third before things fell apart. The pressure put forth by the Lindsay team culminated with a five goal third period. Despite the loss coaches Drew Bishop and Steve Churko were pleased with the team's efforts.

Submitted by Doug Sullivan

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The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), in partnership with the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport, is working with the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit and the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team to roll out the STOP (Smoking Treatment for Ontario Patients) Program in Haliburton County. STOP is an initiative that aims to reduce tobacco smoking in Ontario by increasing the use of effective smoking cessation medication and other resources.

"For people eager to quit, the STOP study is a unique opportunity to kick the habit, and we encourage local residents to sign up for the program," says Dearbhla Lynch, a health promoter with the HKPR District Health Unit.

In addition to providing free nicotine replacement therapy such as nicotine patches, gum, inhaler or lozenge, STOP will offer educational material to encourage program participants to make broader changes that can improve their overall health. Often smoking does not occur in isolation, but

rather accompanies other risk factors for disease, such as poor nutrition and lack of physical activity.

Smokers in Haliburton County who want to quit are encouraged to take part in the STOP program by attending the workshops being held in Haliburton on Monday, Dec. 13. To learn more and see if they qualify for the STOP Program, smokers can call the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team at 705-455-9220.

"Nicotine replacement therapy is very

effective, but some people do not use it because of the cost," says Connie Wood, healthy living program coordinator with the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team. "That's where the STOP study can help."

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Where does one often find the best things in life? Often right in your own neighbourhood.

The joyous musical service at St. Margaret's Anglican Church on Sunday, Dec. 12 would support that notion. The daylong snowfall did not discourage most folks from attending this service of worship and thanksgiving for this little church's place in Wilberforce for 90 years. Rev. Canon Anne Moore welcomed everyone, led the prayers and gave the benediction. Choirs and congregation sang out carols, familiar ones and newer pieces.

For the lovely music appreciation is extended to Elsie Lewis, organist, Bill Gliddon on keyboard, members of St. George's choir, an ecumenical choir drawn mainly from the Wilberforce and Gooderham United Churches and St. Margaret's, Bethany Houghton cellist and Mark Braham trombonist. Two special pieces were sung by a children's quartet of Drew and Ryan Rupnow and Taylor and Desmond Davies. Lesson readers were Wayne Rutter, Joan Barton, Ken Jones, Charles Hughes, Flo Elliott, Jodi Rupnow and Canon Moore.

To top off a program of vocal and instrumental music everyone enjoyed refreshments and time of fellowship together. Evelyn Johnston, a long-time member of St. Margaret's and, four years older than St. Margaret's, was pleased to cut the anniversary cake.

Snow set the scene for the arrival of Santa Claus in the village last Sunday afternoon. Some very attractive floats joined in Santa's parade from the school house to the Lloyd Watson Centre. Costumed walkers, horses and riders plus a pony-drawn vehicle added greatly to this enjoyable parade.

At the hall, the children were pleased to visit with Santa, and have pictures taken with him. Each child was pleased to receive a gift. Adding to the fun the youngsters were able to create a variety of crafts at centres set up. And the intriguing model railway was again a major attraction for young and the young at heart. May we extend a heart-felt thank you to all, who again this year, organized this delightful time for the children and the community. What would Santa and the children do without you? Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Upcoming events include the carol service at the historic Essonville Church next Sunday evening Dec. 19 beginning at 7 p.m. Always a good program with lots of congregational singing.

Thursday, Dec. 16 our museum, the Red Cross Outpost Historic House will be open 1 to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This annual open house provides the opportunity to visit our National Historic Site decorated with a natural Christmas tree. There will be seasonal refreshments of course. Bring a short Christmas story or poem to share in the afternoon. We hear that Neil Campbell will honour us with a reading from his book *Sap Buckets and Cell Phones*. Members of the Girl Guide groups will attend in the evening for fun and games. All welcome.

The Harcourt Chapel's ladies recently enjoyed a Victorian Tea. Their Sunday school concert was on Sunday, Dec. 12.

The Wilberforce School Concert is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. on the Lloyd Watson Centre stage.

Coming Events

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West Guilford delights in Christmas activities

West Guilford

Eleanor Cooper

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Dec. 11 was full of activity. First to be visited was the craft and bake sale at the community centre. Not only books for sale, but books by local authors: Lynn Marie Simpson's mysteries, Arlene Johnston, Ann Harris with her past books and Neil Campbell with his popular *Cell Phones and Sap Buckets*. Stained glass, wooden carvings, gift bags, jewelry, wooden goods, popcorn tops and reversible skirts all vied for attention. Nancy Brinks's preserved goodies were displayed next to the Watkins products sold by the Cooks, and baking by the Maple Lake United Church ladies was another highlight.

Second on the list to attend was the 1 p.m. strings recital at St. George's Anglican Church and some of Bethany Houghton's students from this locality were Mitka Titze, Beth Johns, Paul Irwin and Margaret Milne who also accompanied some of the violin soloists. The Bowed Well String Ensemble closed the recital with Joy To The World and Let It Snow.

The third event was the performance of *The Nutcracker* by Julie Barban's Heritage Ballet. A sheer delight to see because of the exquisite dancing as well as the colourful costumes, each appropriate for the part they presented.

Dec. 10 also has its appeal as our Highlands Concert Band performed for the first time in St. George's Church in the evening. Hats off to Keith Burns and Bas Bouthoorn for

coming up with the idea. It was a success in many ways. The church was full, the four big Foodland carts were filled with non-perishables, and best of all, the music was well received by Algonquin Brass and Bill Gliddon and Bethany Houghton's cello numbers. Ladies of St. George's Church served us hot cider and Christmas goodies while everyone chatted happily afterwards in the lower hall.

An early notice: Maple Lake United Church hosts a special event on Dec. 29 with a live band performing music of the Golden Slipper era. More of this later.

Congratulations to Community Care on celebrating 30 years of service. We are proud to acknowledge Ev Stata and Sherry Mulholland in their roles of founding member and staff member respectively, both originally from Guilford. Of course I take great pride in having taught Donna (Pacey) MacDonald in school when I first taught at Guilford.

Such a thrill to see a prize pupil attain such a responsible position and do such a commendable job as executive director. I'm sure there is many another worthy of mention as special volunteer - the Bouthoorns for example.

The community joins in sending sincere condolences to the family of Ernie Sims who died on Dec. 3. A lunch was served in the lower hall of the community centre following the funeral at Monk's Funeral Home on Dec. 7, 2010. Our sympathy is especially extended to Ernie's mother, Lola and to his sister, Lori.

Euchre on Dec. 7: Sandy Poulton and Leon Jones scored high; Sennie Muenzed and Cliff Davison scored low; and Tina and Gerald Hadley each attained most lone hands.

Coming Events

To advertise your upcoming event,
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community calendar

What's happening in the County

Post your event for free on the web. Go to: www.mindentimes.ca or

to the  Haliburton Highlands Community Calendar link at: www.haliburtonecho.ca



• **Bereavement Group:** Minden United Church offers help to anyone who has suffered a recent loss and feels overwhelmed or helpless and alone. If this is you or if you know some one in need of help please call Donna at 286-1237 or Nancy at 286-1305.

• **Y's Archie Gently Used Boutique is open!** Located inside Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden, this Boutique is priced right, with all items less than \$3! Shop Thursdays and Fridays noon-5. Interested in volunteering? Call Sarah, Resource Development Coordinator, YWCA Haliburton County at 286-1760 ext. 28 to get involved.

• **Zechariah 4:6 Ministries Inc./ Jericho Centre** will be holding a charitable fundraiser, wrapping Christmas gifts at V&S Haliburton in the front entrance every Friday 11am - 7pm and Saturday 10am - 5:00pm in December from Dec. 3 until the 24. Come and help us as we help you.

• **Community Care City of Kawartha Lakes Health and Support Services** is currently recruiting volunteers to assist in the Adult Day Program in the following areas: Bobcaygeon, Fenelon Falls, Omeme, and Burnt River. Volunteers assist staff with programs for socially isolated seniors and people with special needs such as physical or developmental disabilities. Social, recreational and physical Activities are offered in caring, friendly, safe environments. Training Provided. Contact Eileen MacCormack for further information 705-324-7323 x 274 or emaccormack@community-care.on.ca.

• **December 16th : Haliburton OEYC Cookies with Santa** - Join us for a circle with our favorite Christmas carols, fun finger plays and holiday games. Decorate cookies and sip hot chocolate with Santa, make reindeer food and other fun crafts on this special day. Santa will make a special visit at 12 pm. **Parents and/or Caregivers, please bring a wrapped book with your child's name on it.** Please sign up with Haliburton OEYC before Dec. 16th or at 457-2989.

• **December 19th : A Christmas Musical "The Promise of Light" Followed by Turkey on a Bun dinner** at 4 pm at Minden United Church, 21 Newcastle St. Come and enjoy this Christmas Musical by Joel Raney preformed by the Minden United Church Choir, followed by a delicious Turkey on a Bun dinner with all the trimmings including dessert & beverages. Adult tickets \$10, children ages 5-12 \$5, children 5 and under free at the door. Tickets available at Minden Pharmasave. For information call Diane at 705-286-1470.

• **December 19th : Harcourt Community Chapel's main Christmas Service** will be at 7 pm. This will be a "carols and candles" event. It will be mostly music. We promise that this event will put you in the true Christmas spirit. We hope to see you there.

• **December 19th & 26th : Ailsaw Church Christmas Concert.** Starts at 7pm and refreshments served after.

• **December 21st : OEYC Minden Christmas Party and Potluck** from 10 to 1. We will be making a special craft, singing Christmas carols, decorating gingerbread men and having a scavenger hunt. Santa will be visiting at 11:15, so Please bring a wrapped book labeled with your child's name for them to receive. Please sign up at Minden OEYC by Dec. 12th or at 286-1770.

• **December 29th : Red Umbrella Inn ~ Tourism Planning Best Practices** - Guest speaker John Rae from Whistler - Please RSVP by December 23rd to larrymclarke@sympatico.ca or contact Red Umbrella Inn at 705-489-2462. Cost is \$20 which includes opening coffee/pasteries and Buffet Lunch. Presented in association with: County of Haliburton Economic Development, Tourism and Marketing.

• **December 31st : Don't Miss Harcourt Community Chapel's New Year's Eve Program** starting at 9 pm. This is a party with a difference. It will include Music, Skits, Recitation, Puppets and delicious refreshments. It is a carefully crafted mix of fun and inspiration. This is a free of charge event. It's a great way to see the old year out and the New Year in. For more information call 448-CARE or 448-2273

Events listings are provided **FREE for non-profit groups on a space-available basis.** While we endeavour to accommodate requests for publication, we cannot guarantee that all requests for listings will appear. Requests should be faxed to The Echo at 457-3275, emailed to cthorn@mentimes.ca or faxed to The Minden Times at 286-4768, emailed to cthorn@mentimes.ca or brought in to the office.

Please submit events by the Wednesday prior to the requested publication date.
NOTE: This calendar is not a comprehensive listing of all events taking place in the area. Please check the classified pages, display advertising and articles appearing elsewhere in the Echo for more information on events in the Highlands. For more Ongoing Community Events please see the Weekender.

Winter Guide is Here!

Pick up your FREE copy today!

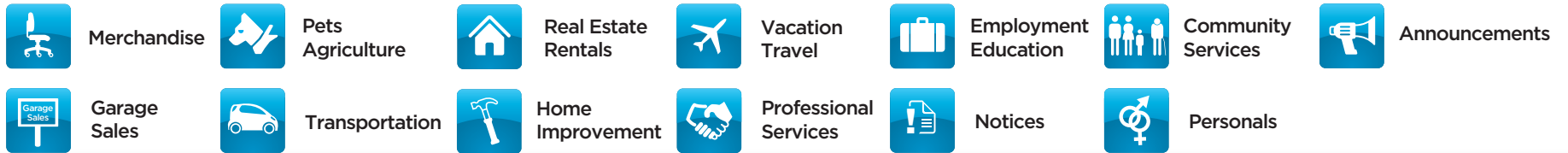


2010/2011 Winter Guide is full of activities for those cold winter months.

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In memoriam

DAWSON, Cliff - In memory of a dear dad who passed away 13 years ago on December 12, 1997.

Dearest father, thou art not forgotten,
Nor ever wilt thou be,
As long as life and memory last
We will remember thee.
Sadly missed by daughter Kathy and son-in-law, Keith

12152736

STEWERT, BERNEICE - In loving memory of a dear mother, grandmother and great grand mother, who passed away Dec. 12th, 2002.

Time has passed, but the love,
And memories will never fade.
Sadly missed by Brier, Dawn and Family

12152741

TIGHE, Floyd - We miss you. In loving memory of a husband, father and grandfather passed away Dec. 17, 2009

A million times I've needed you
A million times I've cried,
If love could have saved you
You never would have died.
Things we feel most deeply
Are the hardest things to say,
My dearest one, I loved you,
In a very special way.
If I could have one lifetime wish
One dream that could come true,
I'd pray to God with all my heart
For yesterday and you.

We miss you, your wife Marjorie, sons Dar-
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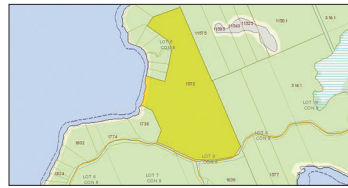
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\$439,900



LITTLE GLAMOR LAKE

With most building materials harvested from the property, this stacked cordwood cottage is truly unique. 5 br, open concept living area. If true 'cottageing' is what you want, see this. 255 ft frtg, 14 ac of rich forest. Ask for more information

\$429,000



SOYERS LAKE

Immaculate cottage plus Bunkie on magnificent 5 lake chain. Big lake view, sand shoreline, west exposure. Cozy pine interior.

\$419,000.



3 AC LOT ON DRAG LAKE

152 ft of magnificent rippled sand beach facing west. Extremely private. Big lake view and great level building site. Call for details.

\$389,000



NEW HOME

Sandford Court. 3 br, 2 bath. 1682 sf home & full bsmt. Dbl att grg. 2.68 ac lot. Private. Minutes to town. Taron Warranty. See it now!

\$339,000



SANDFORD CRT. CUSTOM BUILT

Large 2.01 ac subdivision lot. Raymac Corp. 3br home. 1682sf, full bsmt, Dbl grg. Quality materials & workmanship, Taron Warranty. Ask for specs.

\$334,900



INCOME OPPORTUNITY

4 unit apartment building. Good location. Easy rentals. Immaculate grounds, paved driveway, easy highway access. Live in, rent out, tenants pay the mortgage.

\$299,999



GREEN LAKE

Yr rnd home/cottage on water's edge. Gorgeous sand beach, level lot. Full w/o bsmt. Wraparound deck. Close to golf, store, skiing. 3 lake chain. Additional Backlot included.

\$299,000



LARGE FAMILY HOME

Large home on 28 ac at Cardiff Lake. Full walkout basement ideal for a granny flat. Spacious rooms, closets, European style. Lot of potential with some updating.

\$299,000



STORMY LAKE

The perfect package! 3br cottage on level lot. Big lake view, sand shore. S/W exposure. Private. 2 sheds, Shoreline deck. Firepit. Tidy & ready to go!

\$298,000



SUPER STARTER COTTAGE

2 bedrm cottage on Cardiff Lake water's edge. Clean shoreline, pretty view, Good Yr rnd r road. Open living/kitchen area, 3pc bath, covered verandah.

\$247,000



COUNTY ROAD 21 HOME

Top location between Haliburton & Minden on nearly 5 acres. Privacy, country surroundings with a very well maintained 3BR home plus large garage. Good value for your family home or investment.

\$239,900



HIGHWAY 35

12 Mile Lake right across the road. Great view, great location for a home based business. Spacious, bright appealing home. Many upgrades & features for any family.

\$234,900



WILBERFORCE AREA

Charming round log home. Private on 24 acres with trails throughout. Country kitchen, main flr Indry, w/o bsmt with lge recroom. Double Car garage.

\$229,000



HALIBURTON HOME

Great location near village & lots of room, outbuildings & potential. Contractor or home based businesses interested? Stone & brick home.

\$199,900



HWY 118, CARNARVON

Totally reno'd 4 br home on level lot. Large eat in kitchen, bright, spacious ltr with woodstove & w/o to front deck. Main floor laundry. Single detached garage & carport. Big storage shed & workshop. This turn key home is ideal for a young family or retired couple.

\$159,500

RE/MAX®

**Haliburton Highlands Realty Ltd.
Brokerage**

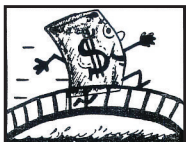
Independently Owned & Operated

REAL ESTATE UPDATE

INTERIM FINANCING

QUESTION: I have signed an agreement for the sale of my present home. The closing date is set for three months for now. I want to buy another house, but the owner insist on closing in just ONE month. I will need the money from my old house to finance the purchase -BUT- there will be a two month gap before I can get the cash. Any suggestions?

ANSWER: An experienced Realtor can help you arrange interim financing, known as a bridge loan, to get the funds for the purchase. The money is advanced by the lending institution on a short term basis. Your present home equity would be used as security.



A BRIDGE LOAN CAN PROVIDE THE CASH FOR BUYING A NEW HOME BEFORE YOU SELL YOUR OLD ONE.